

**Date:** 03/23/2012

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SCR 132/SR 69 Requesting the Office of the Governor to Convene a Working Group to Examine the Possible Reorganization of the Department of Education's Adult Education Program to Better Align Portions of the Program With Departments or Agencies of the State or Counties Rather Than the Department of Education

**Purpose of Bill:** Requests the Office of the Governor to convene a working group to examine the possible reorganization of the Department of Education's Adult Education Program to better align portions of the program with departments or agencies of the state or counties rather than the Department of Education.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) is in agreement with SCR 132/SR 69 that because of the severe shortfall of funding for the adult education program, it would be appropriate to explore possible structural reorganization of the program. However, the Department feels that the specific issues of adult education and its reorganization would be better and more efficiently addressed by the Department and not by a workgroup of state and county agencies, University of Hawaii, officials, and affected public employee representatives. The Department recognizes the need to improve its efficiency and has submitted a plan to reduce the number of adult education schools from ten (10) to four (4) while maintaining statewide services. The Department is currently awaiting approval of its \$2.5 million supplemental budget request and will make adjustments to the number of schools remaining based on approved funding. During this period, the Department will continue to review alternative means for the delivery of services including the management structure of its adult education schools.

The Department remains committed to providing adult education services and will continue to consolidate its programs and management structure in order to maintain statewide services during fiscally challenging times.