
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLASSROOM SIZE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that quality education
2 for Hawaii's students is imperative not only for each student's
3 future success, but also for the overall strength of Hawaii as a
4 State. The legislature further finds that although Hawaii has
5 seen several educational improvements in the United States
6 Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational
7 Progress for the State from 2009 to 2011, further steps are
8 needed to ensure continued progress.

9 To this end, the legislature finds that innovative
10 educational techniques and methods are important for State
11 educators. One such method, the reduction of class sizes, has
12 been met with success in two United States programs: Project
13 STAR in Tennessee and Project SAGE in Wisconsin. The
14 legislature finds that the adoption of such an approach to
15 reduce class size may have similar benefits for Hawaii's
16 students.

17 The purpose of this Act, therefore, is to establish a
18 classroom size working group that brings together knowledgeable



1 members of various government agencies and community groups to
2 assess the benefits of a classroom size reduction program that
3 ensures adequate teaching positions at every department of
4 education school in the State.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall
6 establish a classroom size reduction working group to consist of
7 the following members:

8 (1) The executive director of the Hawaii state teachers
9 association, or the executive director's designee; and

10 (2) Two teachers from each county; provided that the
11 senate president shall appoint one teacher from each
12 county and the speaker of the house of representatives
13 shall appoint one teacher from each county.

14 (b) The working group established in subsection (a) shall:

15 (1) Collect relevant data from schools in the State that
16 establish:

17 (A) Whether a reduction of class size leads to
18 educational gains; and

19 (B) An ideal student-to-teacher ratio for each grade
20 level to accomplish educational gains; and

21 (2) Devise policies to address the adoption of:

22 (A) Classroom size limits; and



1 (B) Administrative rules and procedures to assess
2 penalties for exceeding mandated classroom size
3 limits, including a loss in revenue limit funding
4 for each pupil that exceeds the mandated
5 classroom size limits; and

6 (3) Make recommendations to the board of education,
7 department of education, governor, and legislature
8 regarding recommendations for policies and actions
9 regarding the reduction of classroom sizes and changes
10 in the ratio of teachers to students per classroom.

11 (c) Members of the working group shall not be entitled to
12 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary travel
13 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the
14 working group.

15 (d) No member shall be made subject to chapter 84, Hawaii
16 Revised Statutes, solely because of that member's participation
17 as a member of the working group.

18 (e) The working group shall submit a report of its
19 findings, including any recommendations for legislation, to the
20 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
21 the regular sessions of 2014 and 2015.

22 (f) The working group shall be dissolved on June 30, 2015.



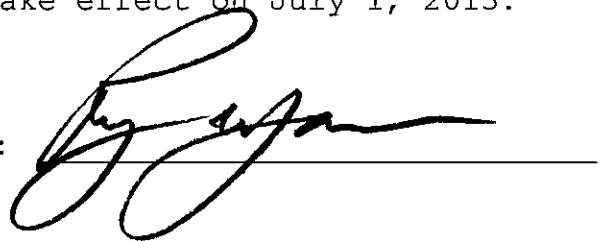
1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2014-2015 to establish a classroom size working group.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of education for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

9

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 18 2013



H.B. NO. 311

Report Title:

Classroom Size; Teacher to Student Ratios; Working Group

Description:

Creates a classroom size working group aimed at determining whether reductions in classroom sizes and student-to-teacher ratios allow for greater academic performance. Effective July 1, 2013.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

