
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF SCHOOL LIBRARIAN POSITIONS AND REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT A WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA THAT RESERVES FUNDING FOR AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN POSITION AT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL.

1 WHEREAS, numerous studies have demonstrated that even when
2 economic, educational, and other community variables are taken
3 into consideration, students from schools with credentialed
4 librarians, adequate support staff, resource rich school
5 libraries, and open access outperform students who do not have
6 those resources; and
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8 WHEREAS, the amount of free voluntary reading a student
9 does both inside and outside of school leads to increased growth
10 in comprehension, vocabulary, and acquisition of information;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, the school library is the primary, accessible
14 source for students to obtain a variety of reading material to
15 meet leisure time reading and classroom needs; and
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17 WHEREAS, a full time qualified school librarian makes a
18 critical difference in boosting the reading and writing scores
19 of the most vulnerable students; and
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21 WHEREAS, achievement test scores show that the majority of
22 public school students in Hawaii are reading below grade level;
23 and
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25 WHEREAS, the distribution of funding for the hiring of a
26 school librarian and the purchase of school library materials is
27 at the discretion of each principal, resulting in inequities
28 between schools and often the inability to provide up-to-date



1 resources to support the curriculum and provide new reading
2 material of interest to students; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are only 172 certified librarians for 255
5 public schools; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Education states that a Master
8 of Library Science Degree (M.L.S.) is required for the position
9 of librarian; and

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11 WHEREAS, many public schools in the Department of Education
12 do not have librarians or are filling school librarian positions
13 with candidates who do not have the requisite professional
14 library training; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has not communicated
17 that there is a shortage of qualified school librarians and is
18 not actively recruiting or hiring them; and

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20 WHEREAS, some principals, even those with a large school
21 population, must consider reducing a librarian's position to
22 half time or eliminating positions completely because of their
23 perceived lack of funding under the Weighted Student Formula to
24 fill staff positions; now, therefore

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2014, that the Department of Education is requested
29 to report to the Legislature on the status of school librarian
30 positions at each public school; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature specifically
33 requests that the report include a detailed list of

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35 (1) Whether or not each public school has a library;

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37 (2) Staffing levels at each library including the number
38 of professional M.L.S. librarians, teacher librarians,
39 and assigned clerical staff;

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41 (3) Budgets for library materials; and

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43 (4) Official student populations for 2013-2014 by school;
44 and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 2 requested to submit the report, including findings,
 3 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to each member of
 4 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
 5 of the Regular Session of 2015; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and its
 8 appointed Committee on Weights is requested to adopt a Weighted
 9 Student Formula that reserves a portion of the funding for the
 10 hiring of at least one or more qualified school librarians for
 11 each public school, or to set aside such funding outside of the
 12 Weighted Student Formula to ensure that students from every
 13 school community have full time access to a credentialed M.L.S.
 14 school librarian; and

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 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
 17 requested to establish a base amount that must be allocated to
 18 each school library to provide basic library materials to its
 19 students, followed by an additional per pupil allocation to each
 20 library; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 24 Education and the Superintendent of the Department of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Richard Lee

[Signature]

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MAR 07 2014

