
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE THE
LEGISLATURE WITH A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON PUBLIC SCHOOL
FUNDING.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Education oversees the only
2 statewide school district in the United States; and
3

4 WHEREAS, a Ballotpedia analysis of per-pupil expenditures
5 in the United States' largest school districts ranked Hawaii
6 227th in per-pupil funding without adjusting for the cost of
7 living; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the lowest per-pupil funding amount in
10 the nation when adjusted for the cost of living; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the highest per capita private school
13 enrollment in the nation; and
14

15 WHEREAS, Hawaii's major private schools average \$15,173 in
16 per-pupil spending without including endowments -- a figure that
17 rises to \$19,173 when parochial schools subsidized by the Roman
18 Catholic Diocese of Honolulu are excluded; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the State spends \$11,823 per pupil for both
21 general and special education students, but roughly half as much
22 as private schools when only general education students are
23 taken into account; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranks last in the nation in capital
26 improvement funding per student, spending approximately \$300 per
27 student on capital improvements, compared to mainland averages
28 of \$1,200 to \$1,500 per student; and



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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii ranked 51st out of 50 states and the
2 District of Columbia in starting and median teacher salaries
3 adjusted for cost of living, according to a study performed by
4 WalletHub.com; and
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6 WHEREAS, Hawaii has one of the highest teacher turnover
7 rates in the nation, losing approximately 50 percent of the
8 State's teaching workforce every five years; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public school campuses are over 65 years
11 old on average and contain nearly 7,000 classrooms that lack air
12 conditioning or other heat abatement technology, despite
13 classroom temperatures that regularly exceed 90 degrees during
14 the school year; and
15

16 WHEREAS, increasing funding for public education would
17 upgrade school infrastructure, assist in the recruitment and
18 retention of effective teachers, and increase student
19 achievement; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
23 Session of 2016, that the Department of Education is requested
24 to provide the Legislature with a comprehensive report on public
25 school funding; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report must evaluate
28 methods of improving funding for public education and, at a
29 minimum, include the following:
30

31 (1) A district-to-district comparison of per-pupil
32 spending, including capital improvement project costs,
33 between Hawaii's statewide school district and
34 mainland school districts of similar sizes and with
35 similar costs of living;
36

37 (2) A district-to-district comparison of teacher salaries
38 between Hawaii's statewide school district and
39 mainland school districts of similar sizes and with
40 similar costs of living;



- 1 (3) Changes to the weighted student formula to promote
2 fiscal equity throughout the Department of Education,
3 including the use of categorical allotments for rural
4 schools and increased funding for special education;
5
- 6 (4) Progress in providing air conditioning to all public
7 school classrooms, including the amount of funding
8 needed to provide air conditioning or other heat
9 abatement strategies to all classrooms;
10
- 11 (5) Budgetary projections to reduce class size for public
12 elementary, middle and intermediate, and high schools
13 to no more than 20 students for any elementary school
14 class and no more than 26 students for any middle,
15 intermediate, or high school class, except band,
16 orchestra, choir, or theater;
17
- 18 (6) Funds needed to staff all applicable public schools
19 with a librarian, technology coordinator, vice
20 principal, counselor, and special education transition
21 coordinator;
22
- 23 (7) Funds to increase arts and Native Hawaiian educational
24 programming throughout the Department of Education;
25
- 26 (8) Funds needed to expand vocational, technical, and
27 career pathway programming to at least one high school
28 in every school complex area, including cost estimates
29 for any necessary personnel;
30
- 31 (9) Funds needed to align teacher salary steps with years
32 of service, including the number of teachers whose
33 salary steps are not aligned with years of service and
34 budgetary projections for providing annual step
35 increases to all teachers beginning with the 2017-2018
36 school year; and
37
- 38 (10) Information on strategies for minimizing
39 administrative costs and departmental overhead
40 expenses; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
2 requested to submit the report, including any proposed
3 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
4 the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
8 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of
9 Education.

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OFFERED BY: *Fakiah Bm*

MAR 11 2016

