

MAR 11 2016

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

3  
4           WHEREAS, according to a Ballotpedia analysis of the largest  
5 school districts within the United States, Hawaii has the lowest  
6 expenditures per student when including a cost of living  
7 adjustment; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, Hawaii has the highest per capita private school  
10 enrollment in the United States; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, Hawaii's major private schools spend approximately  
13 \$15,173 per student, not including endowments, and approximately  
14 \$19,173 per student when Catholic schools, subsidized by the  
15 Roman Catholic Diocese, are not included; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Education school district  
18 spends \$11,823 per student for general and special education  
19 students, but approximately half as much as private schools when  
20 only general education students are taken into account; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, Hawaii ranks last in capital improvement funding  
23 per student, spending approximately \$300 per student on capital  
24 improvements compared to an average of \$1,200 to \$1,500 on the  
25 mainland; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, according to a WalletHub.com study, Hawaii ranked  
28 fifty-first out of fifty states and the District of Columbia in  
29 starting and median teacher salaries when including a cost of  
30 living adjustment; and

31



# S.C.R. NO. 158

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has one of the highest teacher turnover  
2 rates in the nation, losing approximately fifty percent of the  
3 State's teaching force every five years; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, Hawaii's public school campuses are on average,  
6 over sixty-five years old and contain nearly seven thousand  
7 classrooms that lack air conditioning or other heat abatement  
8 technology, despite classroom temperatures that regularly exceed  
9 ninety degrees during the school year; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, increasing funding for public education will  
12 upgrade school infrastructure, help to recruit and retain  
13 effective teachers, and increase student achievement; now,  
14 therefore,

15  
16           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
19 Education is requested to provide the Legislature with a  
20 comprehensive report on public school funding; and

21  
22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education  
23 evaluate methods of improving funding for public education and  
24 include the following in the report:

25  
26           (1) A district-to-district comparison of per-student  
27 spending, including capital improvement projects, in  
28 the Hawaii Department of Education school district and  
29 mainland school districts with similar sizes and costs  
30 of living;

31  
32           (2) A district-to-district comparison of teacher salaries  
33 in the Hawaii Department of Education school district  
34 and mainland school districts with similar sizes and  
35 costs of living;

36  
37           (3) Recommendations to the weighted student formula to  
38 promote fiscal equity throughout the Department of  
39 Education, including the use of categorical allotments  
40 for rural schools and increased funding for special  
41 education;

42



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

37           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
38 requested to submit the report, including any proposed  
39 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
40 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and  
41



# S.C.R. NO. 158

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant  
3 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Education, and  
4 Superintendent of Education.  
5  
6  
7

OFFERED BY: Michelle Sidani  
Rosey de Baka  
Franne Ann Clahar  
Matt

