

MAR 1 1 2016

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

32 WHEREAS, Hawaii has one of the highest teacher turnover
33 rates in the nation, losing approximately fifty percent of the
34 State's teaching force every five years; and
35



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

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7 WHEREAS, increasing funding for public education will
8 upgrade school infrastructure, help to recruit and retain
9 effective teachers, and increase student achievement; now,
10 therefore,

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
14 that the Department of Education is requested to provide the
15 Legislature with a comprehensive report on public school
16 funding; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education
19 evaluate methods of improving funding for public education and
20 include the following in the report:

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- 22 (1) A district-to-district comparison of per-student
23 spending, including capital improvement projects, in
24 the Hawaii Department of Education school district and
25 mainland school districts with similar sizes and costs
26 of living;
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28 (2) A district-to-district comparison of teacher salaries
29 in the Hawaii Department of Education school district
30 and mainland school districts with similar sizes and
31 costs of living;
 - 32
33 (3) Recommendations to the weighted student formula to
34 promote fiscal equity throughout the Department of
35 Education, including the use of categorical allotments
36 for rural schools and increased funding for special
37 education;
 - 38
39 (4) Progress in providing air conditioning to all public
40 school classrooms, including the amount of funding
41 needed to provide air conditioning or other heat
42 abatement strategies to all classrooms;



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

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
3 Chairperson of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of
4 Education.
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OFFERED BY: Michelle Sedoni
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