

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 404

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2017

RE: S.B. No. 553

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 553 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula;
- (2) Define a remote school as any public school that is a high school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school, or a high school located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau; and
- (3) Specify the minimum number of teachers for Hana High and Elementary School.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii State Teachers Association, Education Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

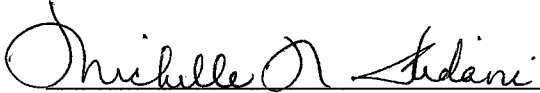
Your Committee finds that the weighted student formula was intended to make funding for public education more equitable, transparent, and decentralized. Your Committee further finds that the weighted student formula has had the unintended consequence of



limiting academic programming for children in small and rural schools because such schools have additional logistical constraints due to their sizes and remote locations that the formula does not take into account. Your Committee additionally finds that this limiting effect is especially severe at Hana High and Elementary School. This measure will ensure that small and remote schools are given the level of resources that they require rather than the insufficient resources that they might receive under the weighted student formula alone.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 553 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

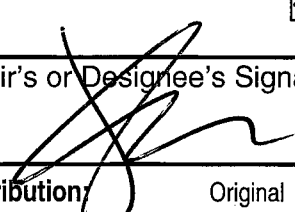
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,

  
MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB553</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EDU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>2-13-17</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				/
ESPERO, Will	/			
RIVIERE, Gil				/
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution</b>	Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes