
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that special education
2 services, including academic, speech-language, psychological,
3 physical, occupational, and counseling accommodations, meet the
4 unique needs of students with disabilities. Governed by federal
5 and state law, special education services are available to
6 eligible students aged three to twenty-two who demonstrate a
7 need for specially designed instruction.

8 The legislature additionally finds that the State's teacher
9 shortage disproportionately harms special needs students.
10 According to the department of education's employment data, in
11 the Nanakuli-Waianae complex area, fifty-seven of the sixty-
12 three newly recruited special education teachers for the 2015-
13 2016 through 2017-2018 school years had no special education
14 teaching license. As the department of education works to
15 alleviate the State's teacher shortage crisis, it is imperative
16 that funds and staff positions for special education are



1 allocated in a manner that uplifts students who require the most
2 care and resources.

3 The purpose of this Act is to ensure a quality educational
4 experience for all special needs students by ensuring that
5 funding for special education accounts for the severity of the
6 disabilities of all special needs students.

7 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 "§302A-1303.6 **Weighted student formula.** (a) Based upon
10 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of
11 education may adopt a weighted student formula for the
12 allocation of moneys to public schools that takes into account
13 the educational needs of each student; provided that weighted
14 student formula moneys shall not be used for state-funded
15 prekindergarten programs, except for special education and Title
16 I-funded prekindergarten programs. The department, upon the
17 receipt of appropriated moneys, shall use the weighted student
18 formula to allocate funds to public schools. Principals shall
19 expend moneys provided to the principals' schools. This section
20 shall only apply to charter schools for fiscal years in which
21 the charter schools elect pursuant to section 302D-29 to receive



1 allocations according to the procedures and methodology used to
2 calculate the weighted student formula allocation.

3 (b) When adopting a weighted student formula for students
4 with disabilities, the board shall ensure, to the greatest
5 extent possible, that the allocation of moneys and staff
6 positions for students with disabilities is based on the
7 severity of the disability of each student."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 2145

Report Title:

DOE; BOE; Special Education; Weighted Student Formula

Description:

Requires the Board of Education to consider the severity of the disability of each student in the weighted student formula for determining the allocation of funds and staff positions.

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