



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/11/2019  
**Time:** 03:30 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0692 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Authorizes allocation of supplemental categorical funding to remote schools, subject to legislative appropriation. Appropriates funds.

**Department's Position:**  
The Department provides comments on SB 692.

The Department appreciates efforts to ensure adequate funding is available for all public school students.

This measure would add a new section to Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide a mechanism for "Remote schools categorical funding." This section defines "remote schools" as DOE operated schools that contain a high school and are located at least one hour away from the next nearest public high school. Four existing schools would fall under this definition: Hana High and Elementary; Lanai High and Elementary; Molokai High; and, Niihau High and Elementary.

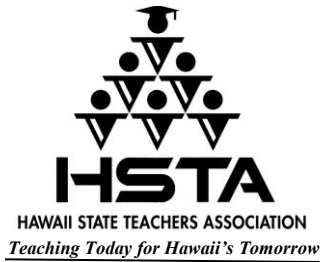
Dedicated funding for "remote schools" is not currently included in the formula. Through the Committee on Weights (Committee) process, from School Year 2006-07 to 2011-12 the formula included a mechanism to provide additional resources for schools classified as Geographically Isolated. These schools were DOE schools in Hana and on the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau. Based on the recommendation of the Committee and decision by the Board of Education, since School Year 2012-13 through to the current School Year, these schools have needed to submit an application if they felt the funding provided under the weighted student formula was inadequate.

The details of the formula used to distribute Weighted Student Formula funding can be found here:  
<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/Reports/FY20WSFWeights.pdf>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).





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Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President  
Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 692 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

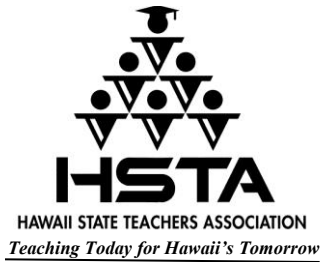
Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports** SB 692, relating to education.

SB 692 would authorize allocation of supplemental categorical funding to remote schools, subject to legislative appropriation.

Since the passage of Act 51 in 2004, Hawai'i has experimented with a weighted student formula (WSF) to equalize school funding, intended to make funding for public education more equitable, transparent, and decentralized. WSF had the unintended consequence of limiting academic programming for children in small and rural schools with limited student enrollment, thus limited funds received through the weighted student formula. A recent report commissioned by the Hawai'i Department of Education and completed by the American Institutes of Research reveals that "small or isolated schools do not have adequate funding under WSF and that the formula does not account adequately for diseconomies of scale associated with small schools or for additional costs due to geographic isolation."

Small and geographically remote schools sometimes lack sufficient funds to cover programming above and beyond basic operations. Isolated communities lack the economic breadth available to their urban counterparts, while experiencing distance from essential services and less access to technology. The AIR, therefore, suggested that "extra support" be provided to schools that are small or isolated, including a recalculation of WSF to "accurately account for the differential costs of providing an



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equal opportunity for all students to achieve, regardless of their individual needs or circumstances (such as geographic location).”

Because student populations at remote schools vary dramatically from year to year, funding for positions at such schools also changes annually, creating turbulence in staff requirements and course offerings. Challenges faced by small and remote schools because of inadequate WSF funding include staffing shortages, cutbacks to courses, a lack of librarians, and more. At times, such schools do not have teachers to staff every grade level, if the school is an elementary school, or all core classes, if the school is a secondary school, presenting problems in the provision of minimum educational requirements to students. We cannot allow these schools to continue to struggle because of enrollment and geographical factors beyond their control. Accordingly, we hope that the study called for by this measure reveals ways that small and remote schools can be more equitably and sustainably funded.

To provide all of Hawai'i's children with access to a quality education, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this SB 692.

**LATE**

**SB-692**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 1:51:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/11/2019 3:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: