



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

Date: 02/09/2021

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 309 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: HB 0521 RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the committee on weights to submit a report to the legislature detailing any changes to the funding formula within thirty days of the change.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on House Bill 521, which seeks to amend the duties of the Committee on Weights (Committee) contained in Chapter 302A-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a requirement to submit a report to the legislature detailing any changes to the funding formula within thirty days of the change.

The final report from the Committee on changes to the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) is subject to the approval of the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board) (HRS 302A-1303.6) and, therefore, may not reflect the actual implementation of the proposed change to the formula.

The final Committee report is included in the memorandum to the Board for consideration, which is posted to the Board's website in accordance with HRS Chapter 92. Once the Board takes action on the Committee's recommendations, the final Committee report is posted to the Department's WSF website:
<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SchoolDataAndReports/StateReports/Pages/Weighted-Student-Formula.aspx>.

The Department requests clarification on the start of the thirty-day period for which the report must be submitted to the legislature.

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

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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.