



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

Date: 03/02/2021

Time: 09:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0702, SD1 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 final report. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on Senate Bill 702, SD1, relating to the Department of Education. This measure 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 posting of the Committee's final report indicating the approval of its recommended change to the funding formula.

As the Committee is presently established in statute, it is already subject to the requirements of Chapter 92 for purposes of publicly posting the agenda a week in advance of the meetings, having an open meeting, taking testimony, and posting minutes. The Department currently files the agenda in the manner prescribed by law and posts the materials to its weighted student formula (WSF) website located at:

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/VisionForSuccess/SchoolDataAndReports/StateReports/Pages/Weighted-Student-Formula.aspx>.

HRS 302A-1303.5 (a)(5) and HRS 302A-1303.6 calls for the Committee to provide recommendations to the Board of Education (Board) on the structure of the WSF. The Committee does not have final decision making authority. It is up to the Board to approve, amend, or reject the Committee's recommendations. The Department implements the Board's decision.

The proposed new language in 302A-1303.5 (7)(e) is seeking a report on the Committee's final report, which may or may not have ultimately been adopted by the Board. If the Legislature is

seeking notification of the final Board-approved changes in time for Legislative action in the following session, (7)(e) may be amended to "The Department shall transmit to the Legislature a report detailing any changes to the funding formula twenty days prior to the convening of the next regular session of the legislature following the approval of the change."

Please note that in lieu of another annually required legislative report, the Department would prefer to continue the current practice of posting the Committee's final report and the Board action on the recommendation to the Department's WSF website (see linked above).

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.