



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

Date: 03/16/2021

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: SB 0702, SD2 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 30 days of the final report. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on Senate Bill 702, SD2, relating to Education Funding. This measure seeks to amend the duties of the Committee on Weights (COW) contained in Chapter 302A-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding a special reporting requirement "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."

Please note that the COW is presently established in statute and, therefore, is already subject to the open meeting requirements of Chapter 92, that include:

- 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 COW's 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>.

In addition, the Board of Education (Board) and its Committees are also subject to the same open meeting requirements of Chapter 92. The Board posts its agendas, links to the live and recorded audio for meetings, and written minutes at:

<https://boe.hawaii.gov/Pages/Welcome.aspx>.

In lieu of a special reporting requirement, the Department would prefer to continue the current practice of posting the Committee's final report and the Board's eventual action on the recommendation to the Department's WSF website (see link above).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 702, SD2.

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.