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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS TO RECOMMEND, AND THE BOARD OF  
EDUCATION TO ADOPT, A WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA THAT GIVES  
GREATER CONSIDERATION TO SMALL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, the State appreciates and values a funding system  
2 that adequately and equitably allocates funds to schools, thus  
3 ensuring that their unique budgetary needs are met, so they may  
4 provide students with the education that they deserve; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Reinventing Education Act of 2004, established  
7 pursuant to Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, established a  
8 weighted student formula that sought to distribute funds to  
9 schools fairly, based upon the number of students that the  
10 schools serve and the needs and characteristics of those  
11 students; and

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13           WHEREAS, although the weighted student formula has  
14 fulfilled its goal of providing a more equitable, transparent,  
15 and decentralized method of funding schools, small and remote  
16 rural schools may still be underfunded; and

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18           WHEREAS, all schools have specific minimum staffing needs  
19 to function properly; and

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21           WHEREAS, small schools lack the student enrollment and the  
22 subsequent funding to adequately staff their schools under the  
23 current weighted student formula; and

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25           WHEREAS, geographically isolated schools face additional  
26 challenges due to their distance from essential services; and

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28           WHEREAS, a 2013 evaluation of the weighted student formula  
29 commissioned by the Department of Education and completed by the  
30 American Institutes of Research highlighted the disparity of



# H.C.R. NO. 116

1 funding between small and remote rural schools and other schools  
2 in the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, the current weighted student formula must be  
5 reevaluated and revised to adequately account for the  
6 diseconomies of scale associated with small schools and the  
7 additional costs due to geographic location; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
10 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
11 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Committee on  
12 Weights is urged to make a recommendation to the Board of  
13 Education that gives greater consideration to small and remote  
14 rural schools; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is urged  
17 to adopt a weighted student formula that gives greater  
18 consideration to small and remote rural schools, based on the  
19 recommendation made by the Committee on Weights; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board  
23 of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of  
24 the Committee on Weights.

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OFFERED BY: *Lisakita Young*  
MAR 10 2023

