

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Reinventing
2 Education Act of 2004 (Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004)
3 established a weighted student formula to allocate moneys to
4 schools according to the different costs of educating students
5 with different needs. Despite the intended equitable
6 distribution of funds, the weighted student formula has placed
7 small and remote schools at a disadvantage. For example, in the
8 case of Hana high and elementary school, the budgetary shortfall
9 has resulted in the loss of several well-qualified teachers and
10 has threatened the school's ability to offer minimum course
11 requirements for students to earn high school diplomas. As of
12 2005, six schools were excepted from weighted student formula
13 allocations. The legislature further finds that small and
14 remote schools should be adequately funded to retain the minimal
15 personnel and resources necessary to deliver a quality education
16 to students.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the
2 fiscal equity for small and remote schools by requiring the
3 department of education's committee on weights to consider any
4 inequities of negative consequences of its weighted student
5 formula on small and remote schools.

6 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
7 is amended to read as follows:

8 "**§302A-1303.5 Committee on weights.** (a) There is
9 established within the department of education the committee on
10 weights to develop a weighted student formula pursuant to
11 section 302A-1303.6. The committee may:

- 12 (1) Create a list of student characteristics that will be
13 weighted;
- 14 (2) Create a system of weights based upon the student
15 characteristics that may be applied to determine the
16 relative cost of educating any student;
- 17 (3) Determine specific student weights, including their
18 unit value;
- 19 (4) Determine which moneys shall be included in the amount
20 of funds to be allocated through the weighted student
21 formula;



1 (5) Recommend a weighted student formula to the board of
2 education;

3 (6) Perform any other function that may facilitate the
4 implementation of the weighted student formula; and

5 (7) Meet not less than once every odd-numbered year, to
6 review the weighted student formula and, if the
7 committee deems it necessary, recommend a new weighted
8 student formula for adoption by the board of
9 education[~~er~~];

10 provided that the committee, when developing its weighted
11 student formula recommendations, shall consider any inequities
12 or negative consequences of its weighted student formula funding
13 recommendations on small and remote schools, report these
14 inequities or negative consequences to the board, and provide
15 funding adjustment recommendations to ameliorate these
16 inequities or negative consequences.

17 (b) The composition of the committee on weights shall be
18 determined by the board of education based on recommendations
19 from the superintendent of education and dean of the University
20 of Hawaii at Manoa college of education and include principals,
21 teachers, and other members with the appropriate professional



1 skills, experiences, and qualifications needed to facilitate the
2 work of the committee. The superintendent or the
3 superintendent's designee shall chair the committee on weights.

4 (c) The committee on weights may form advisory
5 subcommittees to obtain input from key stakeholders as
6 determined necessary by the committee.

7 (d) The members of the committee on weights shall serve at
8 the pleasure of the board of education and shall not be subject
9 to section 26-34. Members of the committee on weights shall
10 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
11 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
12 their duties.

13 (e) For the purposes of subsection (a), "small and remote
14 school" means a public school except for a public school
15 governed by chapter 302D, that is:

16 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the
17 nearest public high school;

18 (2) Located in a county with a population of less than two
19 hundred thousand persons;

20 (3) An elementary school with a student enrollment of less
21 than two hundred students; or



1 (4) A secondary school with a student enrollment of less
2 than four hundred students."

3 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY: Lyn De Corte



S.B. NO. 783

Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Small and Remote Schools; Impact;
Funding

Description:

Requires the Department of Education Committee on Weights to consider the impact of its weighted student formula recommendations on small and remote schools.

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