



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1072**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 686 SD1 HD1 CD1

On July 10, 2007, Senate Bill No. 686 entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Educational Assistants" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The bill requires the Department of Education to report to the 2008 Legislature on a career ladder program for educational assistants and the cost of repricing these positions.

Although the need to recruit and retain educational assistants is understandable, I question the need for this bill.

The Department of Education provided testimony which requested general fund appropriations of \$8 million in fiscal year 2007-2008 and \$13 million in fiscal year 2008-2009. The Department gave this amount as the cost of implementing a career ladder for education assistants. The Department also testified that 3,100 educational assistants would qualify for the career ladder program. It is not clear how this data, which was provided to the Legislature during session, is different than the data required by this bill. This bill appears to unnecessarily duplicate the analysis that has already been completed by the Department.

Although there is no appropriation contained in this bill, the possibility of future appropriations is evident and causes concern because this was not an item of priority in the Board of Education approved Department of Education budget request, and a significant amount of general funds were requested by the Department outside of their approved budget to implement a career ladder during testimony on this bill.

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and Members of the Senate  
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For the foregoing reason, I allowed Senate Bill No. 686 to become law as Act 274,  
effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS.

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

1       SECTION 1. A career ladder program is a salary structure  
2 developed for educational assistants who meet the specific job  
3 requirements based on specific training, job performance, and  
4 years of experience as an educational assistant. The career  
5 ladder program recognizes training as a means to advance in  
6 salary. The goal of the career ladder program is to attract,  
7 retain, and reward high-quality educational assistants by:

- 8           (1) Providing opportunities for professional growth;  
9           (2) Enhancing education to improve student achievement;  
10           and  
11           (3) Providing incentives, a salary supplement, and a  
12           career advancement program.

13       With the reauthorization of the Individuals with  
14 Disabilities Education Act, and the requirements set forth in  
15 the No Child Left Behind Act, the department of education is  
16 responsible for the development of staff training programs and  
17 opportunities to meet these demands.



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1       The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
 2 education to submit a report on educational assistants and the  
 3 class levels to be established including a career ladder program  
 4 and other career ladder enhancements, the number of affected  
 5 employees, and the cost of implementing repricing of current  
 6 class levels and a career ladder program.

7       SECTION 2. The department of education shall submit a  
 8 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
 9 convening of the regular session of 2008 on a career ladder  
 10 program for educational assistants that includes:

- 11       (1) Repricing class levels and a career ladder program,  
 12       and other career ladder enhancements;
- 13       (2) The number of employees affected by repricing and a  
 14       career ladder program; and
- 15       (3) The cost of implementing repricing and a career ladder  
 16       program for educational assistants.

17       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

