

JAN 18 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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 varying needs. Despite the intended equitable distribution
6 of funds, the legislature notes that the weighted student
7 formula has placed small, remote schools at a disadvantage. For
8 example, in the case of Hana high and elementary school, the
9 budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several well-
10 qualified teachers and has threatened the school's ability to
11 offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high
12 school diplomas. If Hana high school is unable to offer its
13 students the requisite courses for graduation, those students
14 will have to endure a nearly forty-mile, two-hour drive to the
15 next closest public high school, King Kekaulike high school.

16 The legislature further finds that despite the current
17 economic situation, remote schools should be funded to retain



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1 the minimal personnel and resources necessary to allow students
2 to graduate. One way to address this is to allow these schools
3 to receive supplemental funding based on their remote status.

4 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to authorize
5 supplemental categorical funding for remote schools.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part V, subpart B, to be
8 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

9 "§302A- Remote schools categorical funding. (a)

10 Subject to legislative appropriations, a remote school may
11 receive supplemental categorical funding to support additional
12 instructional and support staff.

13 (b) Any supplemental categorical funding provided to a
14 remote school pursuant to this section shall be in addition to
15 the allocation determined under the weighted student formula
16 that is made to the remote school.

17 (c) For the purpose of this section, "remote school" means
18 any public high school, as defined in section 302A-101, except
19 charter schools governed by chapter 302D, that is:

20 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the next
21 nearest public high school; or



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1 (2) Located on the island with a population of less than
 2 ten thousand; provided that if the high school is
 3 combined with an elementary, middle, intermediate, or
 4 other lower level of schooling, that entire school
 5 shall be deemed a remote school for the purpose of
 6 this section; provided further that "remote school"
 7 shall include Kaunakakai elementary school, Kilohana
 8 elementary school, Maunaloa elementary school, and
 9 Molokai middle school."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
 13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 14 year 2024-2025 for remote schools categorical funding pursuant
 15 to this Act.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 17 of education for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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Report Title:

Department of Education; Remote Schools; Categorical Funding;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes supplemental categorical funding for remote schools.
Appropriates funds.

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