JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds many benefits to a 1 reduction in the student teacher ratio. The majority of 2 research continues to demonstrate that students from smaller 3 classes continued to out-perform students from larger classes 4 through the eighth grade. Other outcomes from smaller class 5 size include students who are less likely to be retained in a 6 grade, more actively participate in class, and less likely to be 7 referred to special education. Research and common sense 8 suggest that teachers in smaller classes are better able to 9 devote more time to each student, which likely produces positive 10 effects on student achievement and can significantly impact the 11 education of disadvantaged children. 12 13

13 The legislature further finds that teachers as well as
14 students benefit from smaller class sizes. Teachers who are
15 assigned to classrooms that have a small student teacher ratio
16 report higher morale levels and are often able to move more
17 quickly through their curriculum. These teachers also
18 experience fewer discipline problems and are better able to
SB LRB 06-1442-1.doc

```
recognize learning deficiencies and special education needs of
1
    their students. The legislature agrees with the Hawaii State
2
    Teachers Association that excellence in the classroom can best
3
    be attained by a reduction of the student teacher ratio in all
4
    grades to allow for the optimum development of a student's
5
6
    potential.
         Reducing the student teacher ratio in elementary, middle,
7
    and high school grades will require the combined efforts of
8
    educators, administrators, school community councils, and other
9
10
    stakeholders who best know the needs of individual schools.
         SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11
    amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12
    and to read as follows:
13
         "§302A- Reduction of student teacher ratio. (a)
14
    Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the
15
    legislature and allotted by the governor, the department:
16
              Shall reduce the ratio of students to teachers in
17
         (1)
              elementary school grades one to five to not more than
18
                     students to one teacher;
19
         (2) Shall reduce the ratio of students to teachers in
20
              middle school grades six to eight to not more than
21
                     students to one teacher; and
22
```

1	(3) Shall reduce the ratio of students to teachers in high
2	schools grades nine to twelve to not more than
3	students to one teacher.
4	(b) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated by
5	the legislature and allotted by the governor, the department
6	shall support class size reduction by providing additional staff
7	as necessary, including teachers from art, music, physical
8	education, gifted and talented, technology, and other specialty
9	areas, tutors, counselors, librarians, and other staff as
10	appropriate."
11	SECTION 3. The department of education shall plan and
12	budget for future staffing needs and classroom expansion and
13	construction to accommodate the reduction of the student teacher
14	ratio at all grade levels. The department shall report to the
15	legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16	the regular session of 2007, on its plan, timetable, and
17	budgetary projects to accomplish the purposes of this Act.
18	SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
20	much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
21	phase in the reduction of class size in all public elementary,
22	middle, and high school grades over the next three years

- 1 beginning with school year 2006-2007, including the hiring of
- 2 additional teachers, tutors, counselors, librarians, resource
- 3 teachers, and other staff as necessary for the purposes of this
- 4 Act.

9

- 5 SECTION 5. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
- 6 department of education for the purposes of this Act.
- 7 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.
- 8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

INTRODUCED BY:

INTRODUCED DI.

Rosal of Bal

Clevens & nishika

SB LRB 06-1442-1.doc

SB. NO. 3102

Report Title:

DOE; Teachers; Class Size; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the reduction of the student to teacher ratio for elementary, middle, and high school grades. Appropriates funds for initiatives and for staff needed to support the reduction.