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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004 (Act 51),  
2 as amended by Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended  
3 by Act 22, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, and as amended by Act  
4 225, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, required the implementation of  
5 a new allocation method, the weighted student formula to  
6 distribute funds to schools based upon the characteristics of  
7 the school's students. Act 51, as amended, also created the  
8 committee on weights, whose responsibility is to recommend an  
9 allocation formula and various weights of characteristics to the  
10 board of education. The board of education is required to  
11 review the formula annually and recommend changes if necessary.

12           The committee on weights has been in existence for two  
13 years. During this time, it has become apparent that schools,  
14 principals, and school community councils would benefit from  
15 knowing that their funding will be consistent over a two-year  
16 period. The legislature finds that this stability in funding  
17 would help schools develop and implement academic and financial  
18 plans to improve student achievement.



1           The purpose of this Act is to require that the committee on  
2 weights to meet to review the weighted student formula annually;  
3 provided that recommendations for changes to the weighted  
4 student formula shall be made at least biennially; provided  
5 further that the rationale for recommended changes to the  
6 weighted student formula shall be provided by the committee on  
7 weights to the board of education.

8           SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
9 is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

10           "(a) There is established within the department [~~of~~  
11 ~~education~~] the committee on weights to develop a weighted  
12 student formula pursuant to section 302A-1303.6. The committee  
13 shall:

- 14           (1) Create a list of student characteristics that will be  
15                weighted;
- 16           (2) Create a system of weights based upon the student  
17                characteristics that may be applied to determine the  
18                relative cost of educating any student;
- 19           (3) Determine specific student weights, including their  
20                unit value;



1 (4) Determine which moneys shall be included in the amount  
2 of funds to be allocated through the weighted student  
3 formula;

4 (5) Recommend a weighted student formula to the board [~~ef~~  
5 ~~education~~];

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

8 (7) Meet not less than annually to review the weighted  
9 student formula and, if the committee deems it  
10 necessary, recommend a new weighted student formula  
11 for adoption by the board [~~ef-education-~~];

12 provided that the committee on weights shall provide the board  
13 and the legislature with rationale for any findings and  
14 recommendations made, including changes to the weighted student  
15 formula and weighted student formula characteristics or weights  
16 for those characteristics, and the effects and costs associated  
17 with any recommended changes."

18 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
19 is amended to read as follows:

20 "§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula. Based upon  
21 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board [~~ef~~  
22 ~~education~~], not less than [~~annually,~~] biennially, shall adopt a



1 weighted student formula for the allocation of moneys to public  
2 schools that takes into account the educational needs of each  
3 student. The department, upon the receipt of appropriated  
4 moneys, shall use the weighted student formula to allocate funds  
5 to public schools. Principals shall expend moneys provided to  
6 the principals' schools. This section shall only apply to  
7 charter schools for fiscal years in which the charter schools  
8 elect pursuant to section 302B-13 to receive allocations  
9 according to the weighted student formula."

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

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

DOE; Committee on Weights; Weighted Student Formula

**Description:**

Requires the department of education's committee on weights to meet annually to review the weighted student formula; provided that recommendations for changes to the weighted student formula shall be made at least biennially; provided further that the rationale for its findings and recommendations shall be provided by the committee on weights to the board of education and the legislature. (SD1)

