
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 two urgent changes
2 must be made to the weighted student formula.

3 Currently, the weighted student formula takes into account
4 the statewide average teacher salary for every school's budget.
5 However, this places an unfair burden on schools with a large
6 number of new teachers who command a lower salary than the
7 average. For example, at Waianae high school, the average
8 teacher salary is only \$46,333. Nevertheless, under the
9 statewide average, the school must pay, in theory, \$67,336 for
10 each of its teachers. This situation is devastating for schools
11 like Waianae high school. Although the school only pays
12 \$7,500,000 in teacher salaries each year, the department's
13 budget indicates that \$10,900,000 should go toward that purpose,
14 so the school now loses over \$3,400,000 to subsidize other
15 schools with higher average teacher salaries.

16 Also, the weighted student formula does not consider
17 teacher turnover rates. Schools in rural districts often suffer
18 from high teacher turnover rates. Schools in Waianae and Makaha



1 experience turnover of more than twenty per cent. Prior to the
2 implementation of the weighted student formula, rural districts
3 were supplied with centrally-funded positions, such as mentor
4 and resource teachers to provide critical training for new
5 teachers. In the past, the Waianae area depended on six mentor
6 teachers and several resource teachers to train their new
7 teachers and provide other special services tailored to rural
8 districts. Under the weighted student formula, this is no
9 longer possible.

10 The weighted student formula is intended to grant
11 principals more flexibility to determine their budgets and
12 faculty. The current situation makes this unachievable for some
13 schools. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require the
14 committee on weights and department of education to adjust the
15 weighted student formula to resolve the aforementioned issues.

16 SECTION 2. The committee on weights, established pursuant
17 to section 302A-1303.5, and department of education shall:

18 (1) Allow schools to use their own average teacher salary,
19 rather than the statewide average, when calculating
20 their individual budgets; and



1 (2) Factor in the need to train new teachers at schools
2 with greater than twenty per cent annual teacher
3 turnover.

4 SECTION 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to
5 reduce a school's existing allocation under the weighted student
6 formula.

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

8

INTRODUCED BY:





JAN 24 2007



Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula

Description:

Requires the Committee on Weights and Department of Education to: (1) Allow schools to use their own average teacher salary, rather than the statewide average, when calculating their individual budgets; and (2) Factor in the need to train new teachers at schools with greater than twenty per cent annual teacher turnover.

