

JAN 19 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Reinventing Education Act of 2004, Act 51,
2 Session Laws of Hawaii 2004 (Act 51), mandated a new spending
3 method of funding education using a weighted student formula,
4 which allocates funds based upon student characteristics rather
5 than based upon enrollment and particular school programs. The
6 implementation of the weighted student formula beginning next
7 year will cause considerable adjustments to be made by many
8 schools, and the loss of funds for some. This year, an
9 additional \$20,000,000 has been appropriated directly to schools
10 to support improved student achievement. The legislature has
11 provided these appropriations as foundational funding to ease
12 the transition to the weighted student formula allocation method
13 that shall be distributed uniformly among schools based upon
14 level--whether it is an elementary, middle, high school, or
15 combination school.

16 The foundation funding will prevent any school from losing
17 funds for the school year 2007-2008, and will provide additional



1 funds to every school. However, one need that remains to be
2 addressed is the continued teacher shortage in our State.

3 The legislature finds that Hawaii continues to have a
4 critical shortage of trained teachers within the public school
5 system. Research indicates that teacher quality is one of the
6 most influential factors in student achievement.

7 Standards-based reform has a greater chance of success when
8 teacher quality is addressed simultaneously. In an effort to
9 provide quality education for its students, the department of
10 education continues to recruit highly qualified teachers from
11 within the State of Hawaii and the continental United States.
12 As more "baby-boom" teachers in Hawaii and across the nation
13 retire, the task of recruiting highly qualified teachers becomes
14 more challenging each year.

15 One way to address the teacher shortage is with programs
16 like the Hawaii teacher cadet program, through which high school
17 students interested in educational careers may be specifically
18 targeted and their skill sets enhanced towards becoming an
19 educator. Such programs provide students with information,
20 field experiences, and insights into teaching in Hawaii schools,
21 and can guide and support Hawaii's future teachers to ensure
22 success in the profession.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to address
2 educational needs, specifically the teacher shortage in Hawaii.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000, or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
6 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2008-2009, for teacher training and support.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
9 of education to carry out the purpose of this Act.

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

11

INTRODUCED BY: Norman Sabana



Report Title:

Education; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to address educational needs, specifically teacher shortage.

