

JAN 22 2008

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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. A significant percentage of students in Hawaii  
2 enter elementary and secondary school with limited or  
3 nonexistent English proficiency, due to the use of a language  
4 other than English as their first or home language.  
5           English language learners (ELL), are students whose first  
6 language or home language is not English and who have limited  
7 proficiency in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing the  
8 English language, which may prevent them from fully benefiting  
9 from their educational experiences. Therefore, many ELL  
10 students need additional curricular and instructional support.  
11 Civil rights laws mandate that ELL students are entitled to  
12 equal access to educational opportunities so that they are  
13 better prepared to learn the same academic content as native  
14 English-speaking students.  
15           Currently, there are about 17,000 limited ELL students in  
16 public schools in Hawaii. The number of ELL students has  
17 increased steadily over the years. Supplemental funding for



1 staffing for ELL students, which is in the "weighted student  
2 formula," was calculated when the ELL student enrollment was  
3 closer to 9,000 students.

4 ELL students do not always receive adequate and appropriate  
5 instruction, because teachers often lack training in basic  
6 strategies to help students develop English language skills as  
7 well as effectively learn content. All teachers should be  
8 cognizant and knowledgeable of effective strategies for  
9 facilitating and maximizing the education of ELL students,  
10 including the use of English-as-a-Second Language (ESL),  
11 sheltered English, bilingual instructional strategies,  
12 culturally-appropriate instruction, and other appropriate and  
13 recognized instructional strategies.

14 In addition to requiring effective language instruction  
15 education programs for ELL students, the No Child Left Behind  
16 Act has added requirements for states to implement timely and  
17 meaningful assessment of ELL students to identify such students  
18 and monitor the students' progress using a comprehensive  
19 database system. These requirements are not fully funded by  
20 Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act.

21 The purpose of this Act is to provide resources to the  
22 department of education to ensure that the needs of all ELL



1 students are met and that all teachers are better prepared to  
2 meet the needs of these students. This Act also seeks to  
3 provide funding to fully comply with the mandates of Title III  
4 of the No Child Left Behind Act.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
8 provide:

- 9 (1) Additional personnel resources for the delivery of  
10 effective language instruction educational programs  
11 for limited English proficient students;
- 12 (2) Resources to deliver professional development and  
13 other support for school and complex area English  
14 language learners staff;
- 15 (3) A comprehensive, enhanced professional development  
16 program for teachers, administrators, and other  
17 support staff who work with limited English proficient  
18 students;
- 19 (4) An effective monitoring system to ensure delivery of  
20 instruction and resources to limited English  
21 proficient students; and



1 (5) Compliance with civil rights laws and the No Child  
2 Left Behind Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Cleante Walker*



**Report Title:**

English Language Learners; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to ensure that children whose first language is not English have the resources they need to succeed in Hawaii's school system.

