

MAR 18 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE A JOINT TASK FORCE TO
REVIEW THE STATUS, PROGRESS, AND RESULTS OF ACT 51, SESSION
LAWS OF HAWAII 2004, AND TO DEVELOP A FORMAL PROGRAMMATIC
EVALUATION AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE THIRTEEN MAIN
ELEMENTS OF ACT 51, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATION FOR IMPROVING,
MODIFYING, AND AMENDING ACT 51.

1 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, also known as
2 the Reinventing Education Act, was intended to implement a
3 comprehensive educational reform of Hawaii's public schools; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Act 51 contained the following thirteen main
6 elements to improve public education:
7

- 8 (1) Establish a weighted student formula;
- 9
- 10 (2) Provide additional information technology;
- 11
- 12 (3) Empower principals through a Hawaii principals academy
13 and other means;
- 14
- 15 (4) Strengthen community involvement through school
16 community councils and parent-community networking
17 centers;
- 18
- 19 (5) Provide more mathematics textbooks;
- 20
- 21 (6) Lower class size in kindergarten, grade one, and grade
22 two;
- 23
- 24 (7) Provide full-time, year-round, high school student
25 activity coordinators;
- 26
- 27 (8) Provide support for students who need additional help
28 to succeed in school;
- 29
- 30 (9) Establish a national board certification incentive
31 program for teachers;



1
2 (10) Enhance teacher education;
3

4 (11) Reduce the bureaucracy that hampers the effectiveness
5 of the department of education;
6

7 (12) Improve the educational accountability system; and
8

9 (13) Require the board of education members to hold
10 community meetings in their districts; and
11

12 WHEREAS, one objective of Act 51 is for all graduates to
13 achieve the General Learner Outcomes and content and performance
14 standards in order to realize their individual goals and
15 aspirations; and
16

17 WHEREAS, high school students should have opportunities, as
18 intended under Act 51, that are not limited by time constraints,
19 to study college level coursework and program endorsements to
20 prepare them to be successful in a global society; and
21

22 WHEREAS, all high school graduates have the right to be
23 fully prepared for post-secondary education or careers and their
24 roles as responsible citizens; and
25

26 WHEREAS, in realizing its responsibility to provide fair
27 and equal access to educational opportunities in the diverse
28 communities throughout the State, the Legislature previously
29 provided additional resources to small rural schools to allow
30 for a well-rounded and varied offering of coursework and
31 electives; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the weighted student formula, established under
34 Act 51, is the mechanism that has been adopted to accomplish the
35 mission and goals of the Department of Education in the delivery
36 of educational services that are fair and equal; and
37

38 WHEREAS, the Committee on Weights, which determined the
39 value attached to students, has failed to provide any
40 substantial recognition for the special needs and challenges of
41 small rural schools in accomplishing the Department of
42 Education's mission of providing a fair and equal educational
43 program; and
44



1 WHEREAS, it appears that the implementation of the weighted
2 student formula has actually undermined student achievement by
3 depriving small- and medium-sized schools of resources, forcing
4 the reduction of teachers and school staff, and eroding
5 confidence in the public schools, and as a result has created a
6 vicious cycle that further compounds the problem; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Principals Academy, established under
9 Act 51, is intended to empower principals to build strong school
10 communities and lead their schools in meeting the school's
11 mission, goals, and objectives; and
12

13 WHEREAS, there continues to be a shortage of qualified
14 principals and schools continue to struggle to improve academic
15 performance and emerge from restructuring; and
16

17 WHEREAS, School Community Councils, another Act 51 element,
18 were established to enhance community involvement by providing
19 key stakeholders with a substantially increased voice in school
20 affairs through clear and concrete powers and responsibilities,
21 shared with the principal, and enunciated under the law; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Education was charged with
24 developing internal policies and procedures for the procurement
25 of goods, services, and construction, consistent with the goals
26 of public accountability and public procurement practices; and
27

28 WHEREAS, a recent report by the State Auditor revealed that
29 internal controls and policies for procurement practices are
30 insufficient for preventing conflicts of interest, a fair and
31 open procurement of contractors, and the establishment of a fair
32 and accurate cost and price for contracts; and
33

34 WHEREAS, improving the educational accountability system
35 under Act 51 was intended to improve academic achievement,
36 safety, and civil responsibility; and
37

38 WHEREAS, it would be prudent for a joint task force to
39 undertake a review of the thirteen main elements set forth in
40 Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004; now, therefore,
41

42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
43 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
44 that this body is requested to convene a joint task force during



1 the legislative interim to hold public hearings and receive
2 testimony on the status, progress, and results of Act 51,
3 Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, and to develop a formal
4 programmatic evaluation and impact assessment of the thirteen
5 main elements of Act 51, including recommendations for
6 improving, modifying, and amending Act 51; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is requested that the Senate
9 President and Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint
10 the members of the task force; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
13 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
14 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days before
15 the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
19 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the
20 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives, and the Chairs of the Committees in the Senate
22 and the House of Representatives having primary responsibility
23 for matters relating to lower education.
24
25
26

OFFERED BY: 

