

JAN 22 2016

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 the Reinventing
2 Education Act of 2004 (Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004)
3 established a weighted student formula to allocate moneys to
4 schools according to the different costs of educating students
5 with different needs. Despite the intended equitable
6 distribution of funds, the legislature finds that the weighted
7 student formula has placed small, remote schools at a
8 disadvantage. In the case of Lanai high and elementary school,
9 students have no public school alternative on-island.
10 Therefore, the school must have all the resources necessary to
11 meet the various needs of students. It must also have the staff
12 necessary to regularly offer courses required for graduation
13 while providing adequate elective courses to students.
14 Balancing such demands with a staff of fewer than fifty full-
15 time teachers, across all grades can be difficult.

16 The legislature further finds that despite the current
17 economic situation, remote schools should be funded to retain



1 the minimal personnel and resources necessary to graduate
2 students. Remote schools are more appropriately funded through
3 categorical allotments that guarantee the minimum number of
4 positions and amount of resources to ensure that school
5 operations can continue.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require that funding
7 allocations for remote schools be determined by categorical
8 allotments rather than the weighted student formula.

9 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
10 is amended to read as follows:

11 "§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula. (a) Based upon
12 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of
13 education may adopt a weighted student formula for the
14 allocation of moneys to public schools that takes into account
15 the educational needs of each student. The department, upon the
16 receipt of appropriated moneys, shall use the weighted student
17 formula to allocate funds to public schools[-]; provided that a
18 remote school, as defined in subsection (b), and other schools
19 designated by the committee on weights shall not be allocated
20 operating funds using the weighted student formula and shall
21 instead be allocated operating funds by categorical allotments



1 that guarantee the funding of a minimum number of instructional
2 positions to ensure that at least minimum course requirements
3 are maintained. Principals shall expend moneys provided to the
4 principals' schools. This section shall only apply to charter
5 schools for fiscal years in which the charter schools elect
6 pursuant to section 302D-29 to receive allocations according to
7 the procedures and methodology used to calculate the weighted
8 student formula allocation.

9 (b) For purposes of this section, "remote school" means
10 any public school, as defined in section 302A-101, excluding
11 charter schools governed by chapter 302D, that is a high school:

12 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the next
13 nearest public high school; or

14 (2) Located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;
15 provided that if a high school is combined with an elementary,
16 middle, intermediate, or other lower level of schooling, that
17 the entire school shall be deemed a high school for the purposes
18 of this subsection."

19 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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S.B. NO. 2573

Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Remote Schools; Public Schools;
Funding

Description:

Requires remote schools to be allocated funds using categorical allotments, rather than through the weighted student formula. Defines a remote school as any public school that is a high school located at least a one-hour drive away from the next nearest high school or a high school located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau.

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