

JAN 23 2015

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 Hāna high and elementary school,
9 the budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several
10 well-qualified teachers and has threatened the school's ability
11 to offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high
12 school diplomas. If Hāna high school is unable to offer its
13 students the requisite courses for graduation, those students
14 will have to endure a nearly forty-mile, two-hour drive away, to
15 the next closest public high school, King Kekaulike high school.
16 The legislature finds that despite the current economic
17 situation, remote schools should be funded to retain the minimal



1 personnel and resources necessary to graduate students. As of
2 2005, six schools were excepted from weighted student formula
3 allocations, receiving instead categorical allotments that
4 guarantee the minimum number of positions and amount of
5 resources to ensure that school operations can continue.

6 The purpose of this Act is to require:

7 (1) That funding allocations for remote schools be
8 determined by categorical allotments rather than the
9 weighted student formula; and

10 (2) Hāna high and elementary school on Maui to have a
11 minimum number of teachers who do not share support
12 staff roles.

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

15 "§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula. (a) Based upon
16 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of
17 education may adopt a weighted student formula for the
18 allocation of moneys to public schools that takes into account
19 the educational needs of each student. The department, upon the
20 receipt of appropriated moneys, shall use the weighted student
21 formula to allocate funds to public schools. Principals shall



1 expend moneys provided to the principals' schools. This section
2 shall only apply to charter schools for fiscal years in which
3 the charter schools elect pursuant to section 302D-29 to receive
4 allocations according to the procedures and methodology used to
5 calculate the weighted student formula allocation.

6 (b) For purposes of subsection (a), a remote school, as
7 defined in subsection (c), and other schools designated by the
8 committee on weights shall not be allocated operating funds
9 using the weighted student formula and shall instead be
10 allocated operating funds by categorical allotments that
11 guarantee the funding of a minimum number of instructional and
12 support staff positions to ensure that at least minimum course
13 requirements are maintained; provided that:

14 (1) Instructional positions shall not be combined with
15 support staff positions; and

16 (2) There shall be a minimum of two elementary schools per
17 elementary grade level.

18 (c) For purposes of this section, "remote school" means
19 any public school, as defined in section 302A-101, except
20 charter schools governed by chapter 302D, that is a high school:



1 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the next
2 nearest public high school; or
3 (2) Located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;
4 provided that if a high school is combined with an elementary,
5 middle, intermediate, or other lower level of schooling, that
6 entire school shall be deemed a high school for the purposes of
7 this subsection."

8 SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act, Hāna high and
9 elementary school shall have:

- 10 (1) A minimum of five middle school classroom teachers;
11 (2) A minimum of five middle school teachers;
12 (3) A minimum of five high school classroom teachers;
13 (4) Two reading non-classroom teachers; and
14 (5) An induction and mentoring non-classroom teacher.

15 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Exception; Remote Schools; Hāna High and Elementary School

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 Lana'i, Moloka'i, or Ni'ihau. Specifies minimum number of teachers for Hāna high and elementary school.

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