
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 weighted student formula has placed
7 small, remote schools at a disadvantage. For example, in the
8 case of Hana high and elementary school, the budgetary shortfall
9 has resulted in the loss of several well-qualified teachers and
10 has threatened the school's ability to offer minimum course
11 requirements for students to earn high school diplomas. As of
12 2005, six schools were excepted from weighted student formula
13 allocations.

14 The legislature further finds that, despite the current
15 economic situation, remote schools should be funded to retain
16 the minimum personnel and resources necessary to graduate
17 students.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve funding
2 equity for remote schools.

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

5 "**§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula[-]; remote schools;**
6 **funding.** (a) Based upon recommendations from the committee on
7 weights, the board of education may adopt a weighted student
8 formula for the allocation of moneys to public schools that
9 takes into account the educational needs of each student. [The]
10 Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), the department,
11 upon the receipt of appropriated moneys, shall use the weighted
12 student formula to allocate funds to public schools.
13 Principals, in consultation with teachers and school community
14 councils, shall expend moneys provided to the principals'
15 schools. This section shall only apply to charter schools for
16 fiscal years in which the charter schools elect pursuant to
17 section 302D-29 to receive allocations according to the
18 procedures and methodology used to calculate the weighted
19 student formula allocation.

20 (b) For the purposes of subsection (a), a remote school,
21 as defined in subsection (c), and other schools designated by



1 the committee on weights shall not be allocated operating funds
2 using the weighted student formula and shall instead be
3 allocated operating funds by categorical allotments that
4 guarantee the funding of a minimum number of instructional and
5 support staff positions to ensure that at least minimum course
6 requirements are maintained; provided that:

7 (1) Instructional positions shall not be combined with
8 support staff positions;

9 (2) There shall be a minimum of two elementary school
10 teachers per elementary grade level; and

11 (3) The categorical allotments shall remain equal to or
12 greater than the inflation-adjusted minimum level of
13 funding, except when the consumer price index for the
14 twelve-month period ending June 30 of the preceding
15 calendar year is less than zero.

16 (c) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Consumer price index" means the national consumer price
18 index average over a twelve-month period that is published
19 monthly by the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of
20 Labor Statistics as the "National Consumer Price Index for All
21 Urban Consumers--United States City Average".



1 "Inflation-adjusted minimum level of funding" means the
2 total amount of funding provided to the school in the fiscal
3 year 2016-2017; provided that this amount shall increase by
4 three per cent for each subsequent fiscal year.

5 "Remote school" means any public school, as defined in
6 section 302A-101, except charter schools governed by chapter
7 302D, that is a high school:

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

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

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2018-2019 for the department of education to provide
20 additional per pupil funding to remote schools.



H.B. NO. 1454

1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of education for the purposes of this Act.

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

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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H.B. NO. 1494

Report Title:

Education; Weighted Student Formula; Remote Schools;
Appropriations

Description:

Exempts remote schools from the weighted student formula. Provides that remote schools will be funded based on categorical allotments that guarantee the funding of a minimum number of instructional and support staff positions to ensure that at least minimum course requirements are maintained. Defines "remote school." Makes appropriations.

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