

JAN 19 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

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.

6 The legislature further finds that despite the intended
7 equitable distribution of funds, the weighted student formula
8 has placed small and remote schools at a disadvantage. In the
9 case of the Hāna high and elementary school, the budgetary
10 shortfall has resulted in the loss of several well-qualified
11 teachers and has threatened the school's ability to offer
12 minimum course requirements for students to earn high school
13 diplomas. As of 2005, six schools were excepted from weighted
14 student formula allocations.

15 The legislature additionally finds that small and remote
16 schools should be adequately funded to retain the minimum



1 personnel and resources necessary to deliver quality education
2 to students.

3 The purpose of this Act is to improve fiscal equity for
4 small and remote schools by requiring the legislative reference
5 bureau to conduct a study on the impact of the weighted student
6 formula on small and remote schools.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall
8 conduct a study on the impact of the weighted student formula on
9 small and remote schools to determine whether the formula
10 fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding
11 among the State's public schools. The study shall:

12 (1) Include all per pupil funds distributed in accordance
13 with weighted student formula calculations;

14 (2) Describe any general fund cost categories not
15 considered in the determination of weighted student
16 formula funding for small and remote schools;

17 (3) Describe any inequities or negative consequences of
18 weighted student formula funding for small and remote
19 schools; and

20 (4) Include any other relevant fiscal information.



1 (b) For the purposes of this study, a "small or remote
2 school" shall mean a public school, except for a public school
3 governed by chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that is:

4 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the
5 nearest public high school;

6 (2) Located on the islands of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;

7 (3) An elementary school with a student enrollment of less
8 than two hundred students; or

9 (4) A secondary school with a student enrollment of less
10 than four hundred students.

11 (c) The department of education shall provide specific
12 data to the legislative reference bureau by June 30, 2018, in a
13 format to be determined by the legislative reference bureau,
14 detailing present weighted student formula funding amounts and
15 calculations, to enable the bureau to focus its study and
16 complete it in a timely manner.

17 (d) The department of education and department of budget
18 and finance shall provide other information and assistance as
19 requested by the legislative reference bureau.

20 (e) The legislative reference bureau shall submit a report
21 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
 2 to the convening of the regular session of 2019.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
 4

INTRODUCED BY:

Clayton W. Hinkley
Michelle Tedani
Will Zuo
[Signature]
[Signature]

J. Kalani Egles
Randy DeBeauvoir
Karl Rhoad
James Merenda K.
[Signature]
Mike Gabbard
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

S.B. NO. 2680

Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Remote Schools; Hāna High and Elementary School; Education Funding; Study; Legislative Reference Bureau

Description:

Requires the legislative reference bureau to conduct a study on the impact of the weighted student formula on small and remote schools to determine whether the formula fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

