
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 funding policies
2 adopted in the state budget each year display the moral values
3 of the State. In times of economic difficulty, such as the
4 State faces today due to the COVID-19 pandemic, funding
5 decisions indicate the priorities of the State. The State is
6 facing a projected deficit of \$1,400,000,000 per year for the
7 next four years. While broad, across-the-board cuts may seem
8 like a convenient way to reduce the deficit, not all cuts carry
9 the same impact and effects. Areas that serve our keiki, our
10 most vulnerable group, must be kept intact to the best of the
11 State's ability. The demands of a balanced state budget cannot
12 be borne by our youngest citizens.

13 The legislature further finds that school funding,
14 specifically per-pupil spending, impacts school performance and
15 outcomes. A 2016 report from the Albert Shanker Institute found
16 that aggregate measures of per-pupil spending are positively
17 associated with improved or higher student outcomes.



1 Using the lessons we have learned from the Great Recession,
2 school funding for students and services should be maintained.
3 After the budget cuts instituted in 2009 due to the Great
4 Recession, it took Hawaii five years to recover from the cuts to
5 education spending. In addition to the loss of funding,
6 students also lost instructional time. For special education
7 services like aides and additional assistance in the classroom,
8 reduction in budgets can render the programs unable to meet
9 student needs as mandated by federal and state law.

10 The New York Times reported in June 2020 that graduation
11 rates could decrease or foundational concepts could be missed if
12 schools reopen with significant budget cuts. While cuts to the
13 department of education's budget may appear temporary, the
14 impact will be long lasting. Therefore, every proposed
15 reduction in the budget must be evaluated before being
16 implemented.

17 The State must commit to protecting educational services
18 for students and the workforce engaged in their education. To
19 that end, the State shall adopt student-centered budgeting in
20 the legislative review process.



H.B. NO. 452

1 The objectives of student-centered budgeting are to ensure
2 that all students have the opportunity for high-quality,
3 equitable public education so that all students are educated,
4 healthy, and joyful lifelong learners who contribute positively
5 to our community and global society, as stated in the department
6 of education's vision statement.

7 The purpose of this Act is to support a student-centered
8 budget in the legislative review process by:

- 9 (1) Requiring committee chairs to make certain
10 determinations when bills directly affecting the
11 moneys appropriated to the department of education are
12 deliberated on by their committees; and
13 (2) Requiring such determinations be written into the
14 committee reports accompanying those bills.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:

18 "§37- Legislative review of the department of
19 education's budget; committee chairs; committee reports. (a)
20 Chairs of committees in the legislature, including standing
21 committees and conference committees, shall make the following



1 determinations when bills directly affecting the moneys
2 appropriated to the department of education for operational
3 expenses are deliberated by their committees:

4 (1) The impact of the proposed budget on students.
5 Specifically, the impacts on Native Hawaiian students,
6 special education students, English learner students,
7 and economically high-needs students;

8 (2) Whether there is a gendered impact by the proposed
9 budget;

10 (3) Whether certain geographic areas are
11 disproportionately impacted;

12 (4) Whether the needs of students with disabilities and
13 students requiring accommodations and special services
14 have been taken into consideration; and

15 (5) The length of time the proposed changes to the budget
16 will impact students.

17 (b) The determinations in subsection (a) shall be included
18 in the committee reports, including standing committee reports
19 and conference committee reports, accompanying the bills when
20 the bills are reported out of the committees."



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1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

3

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2021



H.B. NO. 452

Report Title:

DOE; Budget; Legislature

Description:

Requires chairs of legislative committees to make certain determinations when bills directly affecting the moneys appropriated to the department of education are deliberated on by their committees and to place those determinations in the accompanying committee reports.

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