

JAN 22 2021

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 varying 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 to the
15 next closest public high school, King Kekaulike high school.

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



1 necessary to, at a minimum, retain the personnel and resources
2 necessary to graduate students. One way to address this is to
3 allow these schools to receive supplemental funding based on
4 their remote status.

5 The purpose of this Act is to authorize supplemental
6 categorical funding for schools that are remotely located.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Remote schools categorical funding. (a)

11 Subject to legislative appropriations, a remote school may
12 receive supplemental categorical funding to support additional
13 instructional and support staff.

14 (b) Any supplemental categorical funding provided to a
15 remote school pursuant to this section shall be in addition to
16 the allocation determined under the weighted student formula
17 that is made to the remote school.

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



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- 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
- 5 elementary, middle, intermediate, or other lower level
- 6 of schooling, that entire school shall be deemed a
- 7 high school for the purpose of this section."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
 11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 12 year 2022-2023 for remote schools categorical funding pursuant
 13 to this Act.

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

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021. .

18
 INTRODUCED BY: *A. Kalani Egler*

S.B. NO. 701

Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Remote Schools; Hāna High and Elementary School; Supplemental Categorical Funding; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes allocation of supplemental categorical funding to remote schools, subject to legislative appropriation. Appropriates funds.

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