

JAN 21 2022

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 mandating the
2 department of education to use a weighted student formula to
3 ensure schools have greater autonomy over a larger portion of
4 education funding did not significantly improve students access
5 to a quality public education.

6 While the legislature has the sole authority and
7 responsibility to raise revenue needed to deliver a quality
8 public education, the general fund continues to be the only
9 substantive source of funding for this purpose. Hawaii's future
10 workforce, entrepreneurs, climate protectors, and problem-
11 solvers depend on having the appropriate tools and resources
12 needed to prepare them for a radically changing world.

13 Decades of teacher shortages underscore the lack of
14 competitive wages to recruit and retain qualified teachers.
15 Underfunded schools are not able to afford sufficient social
16 workers and support staff, this has placed a greater
17 responsibility on the few adults remaining in the school who



1 have contact with students. Some high schools cannot afford to
2 invest in teaching tools and technologies that will prepare
3 students for the expanding marketplace. Some schools have let
4 go of their college counselors, resulting in tens of millions of
5 dollars of scholarships never being won by their college-bound
6 students who will lose opportunities or go on to be burdened
7 with crippling student loans and interest.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require the State to raise
9 and allocate sufficient funding to provide a quality public
10 education to the students of Hawaii and to establish a base rate
11 of funding allocation.

12 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1301, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§302A-1301 School system financial accountability[~~-~~] and**
15 **budget baseline.** (a) Beginning with the 1995-1997 fiscal
16 biennium, the department's administrative expenditures shall not
17 exceed 6.5 per cent of the total department operating budget,
18 excluding expenditures for agencies administratively attached to
19 the department, unless approved by the legislature.

20 (b) Not less than seventy per cent of appropriations for
21 the total budget of the department, excluding debt service and



1 capital improvement programs and appropriations for agencies
2 administratively attached to the department, shall be expended
3 by principals.

4 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the start of each
5 legislative session, the department shall publish an annual
6 report comparing the department's operating budget with the five
7 school districts nationwide most comparable to the State with
8 regard to the most recent consumer price index calculated and
9 published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics;
10 provided that the comparison shall be calculated on a per-pupil
11 basis.

12 (d) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the
13 department's annual operating budget shall be greater than or
14 equal to the average of the operating budgets of the five school
15 districts with the most comparable consumer price indices when
16 calculated on a per-pupil basis."

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Jan Acasio



S.B. NO. 2844

Report Title:

Full-Funding for Public Schools

Description:

Mandates the legislature to raise and allocate sufficient funding to provide a quality public education to the students of Hawaii. Establishes a base rate of funding allocation equal to at least the average of the operating budgets of the five school districts nationwide with the most comparable consumer price indices, most recently calculated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, when calculated on a per-pupil basis.

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