
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 varying needs. Despite the intended equitable distribution
6 of funds, the legislature finds that the weighted student
7 formula has placed small, remote schools at a disadvantage. In
8 the case of Hana high and elementary school, the budgetary
9 shortfall has resulted in the loss of several well-qualified
10 teachers and has threatened the school's ability to offer
11 minimum course requirements for students to earn high school
12 diplomas. If Hana high school is unable to offer its students
13 the requisite courses for graduation, those students will have
14 to endure a nearly forty-mile, two-hour drive to the next
15 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 to retain



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

4 The purpose of this Act is to authorize supplemental
5 categorical funding for remote schools.

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

9 **"§302A- Remote schools categorical funding. (a)**

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

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

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

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



1 (2) Located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;
 2 provided that if the high school is combined with an elementary,
 3 middle, intermediate, or other lower level of schooling, that
 4 entire school shall be deemed a remote school for the purpose of
 5 this section."

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

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

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



H.B. NO. 609 H.D. 1

Report Title:

Department of Education; Remote Schools; Categorical Funding;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes supplemental categorical funding for remote schools.
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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2021-1651 HB609 HD1 HMSO

