
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS TO RECOMMEND, AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT, A WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA THAT GIVES GREATER CONSIDERATION TO SMALL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the State appreciates and values a funding system
2 that adequately and equitably allocates funds to schools, thus
3 ensuring that their unique budgetary needs are met, so they may
4 provide students with the education that they deserve; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Reinventing Education Act of 2004, established
7 pursuant to Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, established a
8 weighted student formula that sought to distribute funds to
9 schools fairly, based upon the number of students that the
10 schools serve and the needs and characteristics of those
11 students; and
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13 WHEREAS, although the weighted student formula has
14 fulfilled its goal of providing a more equitable, transparent,
15 and decentralized method of funding schools, small and remote
16 rural schools may still be underfunded; and
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18 WHEREAS, all schools have specific minimum staffing needs
19 to function properly; and
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21 WHEREAS, small schools lack the student enrollment and the
22 subsequent funding to adequately staff their schools under the
23 current weighted student formula; and
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25 WHEREAS, geographically isolated schools face additional
26 challenges due to their distance from essential services; and
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28 WHEREAS, a 2013 evaluation of the weighted student formula
29 commissioned by the Department of Education and completed by the
30 American Institutes of Research highlighted the disparity of
31 funding between small and remote rural schools and other schools
32 in the State; and



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WHEREAS, the current weighted student formula must be reevaluated and revised to adequately account for the diseconomies of scale associated with small schools and the additional costs due to geographic location; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Committee on Weights is urged to make a recommendation to the Board of Education that gives greater consideration to small and remote rural schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is urged to adopt a weighted student formula that gives greater consideration to small and remote rural schools, based on the recommendation made by the Committee on Weights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Committee on Weights.

OFFERED BY: *Lisa King*
MAR 10 2023

