

JAN 19 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

**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 different needs.

6           The legislature further finds that despite the intended  
7 equitable distribution of funds, the weighted student formula  
8 has placed small and remote schools at a disadvantage. In the  
9 case of Hana high and elementary school, for example, the  
10 budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several well-  
11 qualified teachers and has threatened the school's ability to  
12 offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high  
13 school diplomas. As of 2005, six schools were excepted from  
14 weighted student formula allocations. The legislature  
15 additionally finds that small and remote schools should be  
16 adequately funded to retain the minimal personnel and resources  
17 necessary to deliver a quality education to students.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the  
2 fiscal equity for small and remote schools by requiring the  
3 department of education's committee on weights to consider any  
4 inequities of negative consequences of its weighted student  
5 formula on small and remote schools.

6           SECTION 2. Section 302a-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
7 is amended to read as follows:

8           "**§302A-1303.5 Committee on weights.** (a) There is  
9 established within the department [~~of education~~] the committee  
10 on weights to develop a weighted student formula pursuant to  
11 section 302A-1303.6. The committee [~~may~~] shall:

12           (1) Create a list of student characteristics that will be  
13 weighted;

14           (2) Create a system of weights based upon the student  
15 characteristics that may be applied to determine the  
16 relative cost of educating any student;

17           (3) Determine specific student weights, including their  
18 unit value;

19           (4) Determine which moneys shall be included in the amount  
20 of funds to be allocated through the weighted student  
21 formula;



- 1 (5) Recommend a weighted student formula to the board [~~of~~  
2 ~~education~~];
- 3 (6) Perform any other function that may facilitate the  
4 implementation of the weighted student formula; and
- 5 (7) Meet not less than once every odd-numbered year, to  
6 review the weighted student formula and, if the  
7 committee deems it necessary, recommend a new weighted  
8 student formula for adoption by the board [~~of~~  
9 ~~education.~~];

10 provided that the committee, when developing its weighted  
11 student formula recommendations, shall consider any inequities  
12 or negative consequences of its weighted student formula funding  
13 recommendations on small and remote schools, report these  
14 inequities or negative consequences to the board, and provide  
15 funding adjustment recommendations to ameliorate these  
16 inequities or negative consequences.

17 (b) The composition of the committee on weights shall be  
18 determined by the board [~~of education~~] based on recommendations  
19 from the superintendent [~~of education~~] and dean of the  
20 [~~University~~] university of Hawaii at Manoa college of education  
21 and include principals, teachers, and other members with the



1 appropriate professional skills, experiences, and qualifications  
2 needed to facilitate the work of the committee. The  
3 superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall chair the  
4 committee on weights.

5 (c) The committee on weights may form advisory  
6 subcommittees to obtain input from key stakeholders as  
7 determined necessary by the committee.

8 (d) The members of the committee on weights shall serve at  
9 the pleasure of the board [~~of education~~] and shall not be  
10 subject to section 26-34. Members of the committee on weights  
11 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
12 expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the  
13 performance of their duties.

14 (e) For the purposes of subsection (a), "small and remote  
15 school" means a public school except for a public school  
16 governed by chapter 302D, that is:

- 17 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the  
18 nearest public high school;
- 19 (2) Located on the islands of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;
- 20 (3) An elementary school with a student enrollment of less  
21 than two hundred students; or



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1        (4) A secondary school with a student enrollment of less  
2        than four hundred students."

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lyn D. Crute



# S.B. NO. 2544

**Report Title:**

Weighted Student Formula; Impact on Small and Remote Schools

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education Committee on Weights to consider the impact of its weighted student formula recommendations on small and remote schools.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

