

ACT 291

H.B. NO. 1534

A Bill for an Act Relating to Teachers.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the schools along the Waianae coast from Nanakuli to Makaha, and in the communities of Kahuku, Kau, Naalehu, Hana, Lanai, and Molokai have had long histories of excessively high teacher turnover. As such, a large proportion of the teachers in these schools are inexperienced college graduates who, out of necessity, must teach subjects in which they do not have credentials. The legislature also finds that in some communities, there are

approximately twice the number of students in every grade level who are doing below average work as compared to state and national averages. Moreover, recent statistics point out that approximately fifty per cent of the students in schools situated along the Waianae coast fail to graduate. Oftentimes graduates from these areas are unable to read, write, or compute mathematical problems. These examples of low academic achievement are reflective of the socio-economic problems of those communities having, among other characteristics, a large percentage of its residents:

- (1) Employed in low paying jobs;
- (2) Requiring government support;
- (3) Having health related problems; and
- (4) Experiencing high incidences of crime, teenage pregnancies, and single parent families.

The legislature believes that the only way to break the cycle of low academic achievement is to provide meaningful incentives for experienced and qualified teachers to accept or continue assignments at schools with high teacher turnover, and to reward teachers who excel at motivating students and raising scholastic achievement.

The purpose of this Act is to allow quality teachers to accept incentives provided by local communities for the purpose of retaining those teachers at high turnover schools.

SECTION 2. Chapter 297, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§297- Incentive packages for quality teachers. Teachers in the public school system may accept incentive packages provided by local communities for the purpose of retaining those teachers in schools with high teacher turnover. Packages may include such items as:

- (1) Provision of housing;
- (2) Provision of mileage reimbursement;
- (3) Provision of discounts at local businesses; and
- (4) Other items not covered by chapter 89, and agreed upon by the community.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

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

(Approved June 21, 1993.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.