
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS TO RECOMMEND, AND THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION TO ADOPT, A WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA THAT GIVES
EQUAL 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, the weighted student formula also takes into
14 consideration English language learners, special education, and
15 economically disadvantaged students; and
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17 WHEREAS, although the weighted student formula has
18 fulfilled its goal of providing a more equitable, transparent,
19 and decentralized method of funding schools, small and remote
20 rural schools may still be underfunded; and
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22 WHEREAS, all schools have specific minimum staffing needs
23 to function properly; and
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25 WHEREAS, small schools lack the student enrollment and the
26 subsequent funding to adequately staff their schools under the
27 current weighted student formula; and
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29 WHEREAS, geographically isolated schools face additional
30 challenges due to their distance from essential services; and
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1 WHEREAS, a 2013 evaluation of the weighted student formula
2 commissioned by the Department of Education and completed by the
3 American Institutes of Research highlighted the disparity of
4 funding between small and remote rural schools and other schools
5 in the State; and

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

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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
14 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Committee on
15 Weights is urged to make a recommendation to the Board of
16 Education that gives equal consideration to small and remote
17 rural schools; and

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

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee on Weights is
25 requested to consider creative ways for remote schools to work
26 together and share resources; and

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

