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KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/08/2015

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 094 REQUESTING THE COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF REMOTE SCHOOLS WHEN REEVALUATING THE WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA.

**Purpose of
Resolution:**

Department's Position:

The Department of Education offers the following comments on SCR 094.

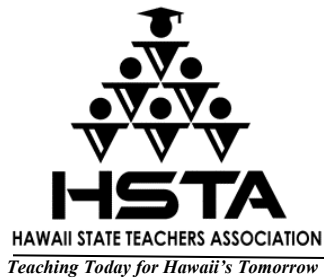
Section 302A-1303.5, HRS establishes the Committee on Weights (Committee) and requires that the Committee meet no less than every odd-numbered year to review the weighted student formula. If the Committee deems it necessary, it may recommend a new weighted student formula for adoption by the Board of Education. The Committee is made up of a broad cross section (by geographic location, school size, and school type) of the school community and includes principals, teachers, classified staff, a community member, and is chaired by the Superintendent's designee - a complex area superintendent. The Committee encourages input on the weighted student formula and each of its public meetings includes an opportunity to receive public testimony.

In past years, the Committee has taken into consideration the needs of remote and small schools in developing the weighted student formula. This is just one of many on the list of considerations.

The Committee on Weights IX held its first meeting on March 6, 2015. Several sub-committees were formed to, over the next three months, evaluate various programs for possible inclusion into the funds that are distributed by the weighted student formula. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2015. If this resolution is adopted, copies of SCR 94 will be shared with the not only the Chairperson of the Board, Superintendent, and the Chairperson of the

Committee on Weights, but the full Committee on Weights at the next meeting.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015

RE: SCR 94 / SR 48

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ron Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Teachers' Association (HSTA) **supports SCR 94 / SR 48** requesting the Committee on Weights and the Board of Education to consider the unique needs of the remote schools when reevaluating the Weighted Student Formula.

HSTA believes that one of the pervasive problems with the Weighted Student Formula is limitations that have arisen in our remotely located schools due to the weighting formulas used. Our remote schools often address issues that may not be easily understood by those of us outside the communities these schools serve. Our remote schools need to be supported so that they can provide their students with every opportunity for success.

HSTA supports all endeavors that will help support our teachers, our schools and the students they serve.

HSTA **supports SCR 94 / SR 48.**