

JAN 26 2011

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended  
2 by Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, required the  
3 implementation of a new allocation method, the weighted student  
4 formula, to distribute funds to schools based on the  
5 characteristics of the students. Act 51, as amended, also  
6 created the committee on weights whose responsibility is to  
7 recommend a formula and various weights of characteristics to  
8 the board of education. With six years of experience, it has  
9 become apparent that, to provide stability and predictability  
10 for the principals and the school community councils, an  
11 improved practice would be to have the committee on weights meet  
12 every odd-numbered year rather than each year. Schools that are  
13 developing academic and financial plans to improve student  
14 achievement need to be assured of constant funding over a  
15 two-year period.

16           The purpose of this Act is to provide that the  
17 committee on weights will meet every odd-numbered year.

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1 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) There is established within the department of  
4 education the committee on weights to develop a weighted student  
5 formula pursuant to section 302A-1303.6. The committee shall:

- 6 (1) Create a list of student characteristics that  
7 will be weighted;
- 8 (2) Create a system of weights based upon the student  
9 characteristics that may be applied to determine  
10 the relative cost of educating any student;
- 11 (3) Determine specific student weights, including  
12 their unit value;
- 13 (4) Determine which moneys shall be included in the  
14 amount of funds to be allocated through the  
15 weighted student formula;
- 16 (5) Recommend a weighted student formula to the board  
17 of education;
- 18 (6) Perform any other function that may facilitate  
19 the implementation of the weighted student  
20 formula; and
- 21 (7) Meet not less than [~~annually~~] biennially, every  
22 odd-numbered year, to review the weighted student

1 formula and, if the committee deems it necessary,  
2 recommend a new weighted student formula for  
3 adoption by the board of education."

4 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 "**§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula.** Based upon  
7 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of  
8 education, not less than [~~annually,~~] biennially, shall adopt a  
9 weighted student formula for the allocation of moneys to public  
10 schools that takes into account the educational needs of each  
11 student. The department, upon the receipt of appropriated  
12 moneys, shall use the weighted student formula to allocate funds  
13 to public schools. Principals shall expend moneys provided to  
14 the principals' schools. This section shall only apply to  
15 charter schools for fiscal years in which the charter schools  
16 elect pursuant to section 302B-13 to receive allocations  
17 according to the weighted student formula."

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

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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INTRODUCED BY: *[Handwritten Signature]*

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BY REQUEST

**S.B. NO. 1281**

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**Report Title:**

Committee on Weights; Weighted Student Formula

**Description:**

Amends Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Committee on Weights to meet not less than once every odd-numbered year.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION.

PURPOSE: To provide more time for the collection and analysis of data regarding the weighted student formula (WSF). In addition, to provide school communities with a more predictable funding basis from which to plan and implement school operations.

MEANS: By amending section 302A-1303.5(a) and 1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, established the Committee on Weights (COW) and tasked it with the responsibility to meet annually to adopt the WSF. The COW has fulfilled its task of annually re-evaluating the WSF and presenting its collective recommendation to the Board of Education. Now that the WSF and the schools' Academic and Financial Planning processes has been well established with five years of implementation and six years of planning, the need to revisit the WSF on an annual basis has diminished.

In addition, the investment of time by Committee members and other Department staff in supporting the annual re-evaluation of the WSF has been considerable. The Committee has been made up of school community members, including: teachers, principals, classified staff, and community members.

Amending the existing requirement to requiring the COW to meet biennially would not preclude the Committee from convening if the need to consider amendments to the WSF should arise.

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GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: EDN-100.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.