

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the United States
2 Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences has
3 concluded that class size reduction is one of only four
4 evidence-based reforms proven to increase student achievement.
5 Experiments in Tennessee, Wisconsin, and other states have
6 demonstrated that students in smaller classes score better on
7 standardized tests, receive better grades, and exhibit improved
8 attendance. Moreover, the students that are benefitting most
9 from smaller class sizes are often from poor and minority
10 backgrounds and these students experience twice the achievement
11 gains compared to other students.

12 The legislature further finds that a United States
13 Department of Education study analyzed the achievement of
14 students in 2,561 schools across the nation by their performance
15 on the National Assessment of Educational Progress exams. After
16 controlling for student background, the only objective factor
17 that correlated with higher test scores was class size.



1 The purpose of this Act is to increase achievement through
2 the reduction of class size in all grade levels.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§302A- Class size; public schools. (a) Beginning with
7 the 2020-2021 school year, excluding charter schools, no public
8 elementary school class shall exceed an enrollment of twenty
9 students.

10 (b) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, excluding
11 charter schools, no public secondary school class shall exceed
12 an enrollment of twenty-six students.

13 (c) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, enrollment
14 in a fully self-contained class at an elementary school shall
15 not exceed four students.

16 (d) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, enrollment
17 in an inclusion class at an elementary school shall not exceed
18 fifteen students.

19 (e) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, enrollment
20 in a fully self-contained class at a secondary school shall not
21 exceed six students.



1 (f) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, enrollment
2 in an inclusion class at a secondary school shall not exceed
3 twenty students.

4 (g) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, enrollment
5 in a content-based English language learning class at an
6 elementary school shall not exceed fifteen students.

7 (h) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, enrollment
8 in a content-based English language learning class at a
9 secondary school shall not exceed twenty students.

10 (i) The total number of students in all classes for which
11 one teacher is responsible in any school year shall not exceed
12 one hundred fifty students.

13 (j) This section shall not apply to any class that
14 provides instruction in band, orchestra, choir, or theatre.

15 (k) A school principal may waive the class size
16 restrictions established pursuant to this section to:

17 (1) Allow students to enroll in high-demand classes;

18 (2) Provide course offerings to an incoming transfer
19 student; or

20 (3) Allow a high school senior to complete a course
21 required for graduation.



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1 (l) The board shall amend any board policies related to
2 class size to conform with the class sizes established in this
3 section.

4 (m) For the purposes of this section:

5 "Content-based English language learning class" means any
6 class providing instruction only to students with limited
7 English language proficiency.

8 "Fully self-contained class" means any class that provides
9 instruction only to special education students.

10 "Inclusion class" means any class that provides instruction
11 to general education and special education students."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Michelle Irdani

Clara & Nicholas
B

Breene Hart

Matt

Donna



S.B. NO. 2597

Report Title:

Class Size; Enrollment; Maximum; Department of Education

Description:

Establishes maximum student enrollment per school class for various types of public school classrooms beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

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