
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION FUNDING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Reinventing
2 Education Act of 2004 (Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004)
3 established a weighted student formula to allocate moneys to
4 schools according to the different costs of educating students
5 with different needs.

6 The legislature further finds that despite the intended
7 equitable distribution of funds, the weighted student formula
8 has placed small and remote schools at a disadvantage. In the
9 case of Hana high and elementary school, for example, the
10 budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several well-
11 qualified teachers and has threatened the school's ability to
12 offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high
13 school diplomas. As of 2005, six schools were excepted from
14 weighted student formula allocations.

15 The legislature additionally finds that small and remote
16 schools should be adequately funded to retain the minimal
17 personnel and resources necessary to deliver a quality education



1 to students. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve
2 the fiscal equity for small and remote schools by requiring the
3 legislative reference bureau to conduct a study on the impact of
4 the weighted student formula on small and remote schools.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall
6 conduct a study on the impact of the weighted student formula on
7 small and remote schools, to determine whether the formula
8 fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding
9 among the State's public schools. The study shall:

10 (1) Include all amounts appropriated and distributed as
11 per pupil funds in accordance with weighted student
12 formula calculations;

13 (2) Describe any general fund cost categories not
14 considered in the determination of weighted student
15 formula funding for small and remote schools;

16 (3) Describe any inequities or negative consequences of
17 weighted student formula funding for small and remote
18 schools; and

19 (4) Provide any other fiscal information that would be
20 relevant to the legislative reference bureau's study.



1 (b) For the purposes of this study, a small or remote
2 school means a public school, except for a school governed by
3 chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that is:

- 4 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the
5 nearest public high school;
- 6 (2) Located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;
- 7 (3) An elementary school with a student enrollment of less
8 than two hundred students; or
- 9 (4) A secondary school with a student enrollment of less
10 than four hundred students.

11 (c) The department of education shall provide specific
12 data to the legislative reference bureau by June 30, 2018, in a
13 format to be determined by the bureau, detailing present
14 weighted student formula funding amounts and calculations, to
15 enable the bureau to focus its study and complete it in a timely
16 manner.

17 (d) The department of education and the department of
18 budget and finance are requested to provide other information
19 and assistance as requested by the legislative reference bureau.

20 (e) The legislative reference bureau shall submit a report
21 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2019.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

[Signature]
Mark H. Hale

Lynn DeCorte

James King

Col. Lt.

[Signature]
[Signature]

Rick Warren

[Signature]

A. Spola

James C. De

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Cindy Evans

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
Calvin Y. Say



H.B. NO. 2260

Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Impact on Small and Remote Schools;
LRB Study

Description:

Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the impact of the weighted student formula on small and remote schools to determine whether the formula fulfills its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among the State's public schools.

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