RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that improving our schools begins by setting a goal and having a vision. The state department of education strategic plan sets goals to increase student engagement, student empowerment, and support for its employees. Often a vision can stem from observations of best practices adopted in other states. Examples of best practices include operations that emphasize peer-to-peer learning and teacher-personnel engagement.

The legislature finds that Massachusetts is making notable advances in education, as evidenced by its internationally competitive assessment results, educational practices, and student learning outcomes. Massachusetts established a collaborative planning and expanded learning time initiative geared toward better supporting the growth of its teachers and students. The Massachusetts public school system is similar to the public school system in Hawaii.
The purpose of this Act is to establish and implement a model pilot program within one department of education complex area.

SECTION 2. (a) Beginning with school year 2019-2020, the department of education shall establish and implement a four-year pilot program within one complex area.

(b) The pilot program may provide public school teachers with at least forty-five minutes every school day for:

(1) Individual teacher preparation time to allow teachers to adequately prepare for instruction the following day;

(2) Collaborative teacher preparation time to allow opportunities for like-grade teachers to facilitate conversation amongst each other regarding effective pedagogy in the classrooms to create high-quality lesson plans; and

(3) Teachers to, at the start of each school day or prior to the conclusion of each school day, work with students who are struggling with any lesson taught earlier that day or the preceding day.
(c) The department of education may structure public school classroom operations within the pilot program complex area in the following ways:

(1) Classroom desks may be placed in clusters or pods to facilitate and encourage peer-led group learning; and

(2) Elementary teachers and teacher assistants may work in pairs based on complementary strengths or backgrounds. Elementary teachers and teacher assistants with educational backgrounds in math or science may be paired with an elementary teacher or teacher assistant whose educational background is in reading or the arts.

(d) The public school principals and vice principals in the pilot program complex area may adopt the following practices:

(1) Each principal may rotate amongst the public elementary, middle or intermediate, and high schools in the designated complex area. The rotation may be based upon where the highest need or demand for administrative support is so that principals are actively available to all teachers and students; and
(2) Principals and vice principals may rotate time in each public school classroom to observe educational practices; provided that the intent of the observations is to offer a tool to increase professional growth and further develop effective teaching, not monitor teacher performance.

(e) The department of education may implement project-based learning into the curriculum of this pilot program.

(f) The department of education shall submit an annual report of its findings to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to establish and implement a model pilot program within one department of education complex area.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.
SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019, and
shall be repealed on June 30, 2023.

INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 2 3 2019
Report Title:
Pilot Program; Best Practices; Department of Education

Description:
Requires the Department of Education to establish and implement a four-year pilot program within one complex area. Authorizes best practices for the pilot program. Appropriates funds.

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