

JAN 17 2020

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 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. Despite the intended equitable
6 distribution of funds, the legislature finds that the weighted
7 student formula has placed small, remote schools at a
8 disadvantage. In the case of Hāna high and elementary school,
9 the budgetary shortfall has resulted in the loss of several
10 well-qualified teachers and has threatened the school's ability
11 to offer minimum course requirements for students to earn high
12 school diplomas. If Hāna high school is unable to offer its
13 students the requisite courses for graduation, those students
14 will have to endure a nearly forty-mile, two-hour drive to the
15 next closest public high school, King Kekaulike high school.

16 The legislature further finds that despite the current
17 economic situation, remote schools should be funded to retain



1 the minimal personnel and resources necessary to graduate
2 students. One way to address this is to allow these schools to
3 receive supplemental funding based on their remote status.

4 The purpose of this Act is to authorize supplemental
5 categorical funding for remote schools.

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

9 "§302A- Remote schools categorical funding. (a) For
10 the purpose of this section, "remote school" means any public
11 school, as defined in section 302A-101, except a charter school
12 governed by chapter 302D, that is a high school:

13 (1) Located at least a one-hour drive away from the next
14 nearest public high school; or

15 (2) Located on the island of Lanai, Molokai, or Niihau;
16 provided that if a high school is combined with an
17 elementary, middle, intermediate, or other lower level
18 of schooling, that entire school shall be deemed a
19 high school for the purpose of this section.



1 (b) Subject to legislative appropriations, a remote school
2 may receive supplemental categorical funding to support
3 additional instructional and support staff.

4 (c) Any supplemental categorical funding provided to a
5 remote school pursuant to this section shall be in addition to
6 the allocation determined under the weighted student formula
7 that is made to the remote school."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
11 remote schools categorical funding pursuant to this Act.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
13 education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

16

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S.B. NO. 2359

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S.B. NO. 2359

Report Title:

Weighted Student Formula; Remote Schools; Hāna High and Elementary School; Supplemental Categorical Funding; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes allocation of supplemental categorical funding to remote schools, subject to legislative appropriation. Appropriates funds.

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