
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE A REPORT TO
THE LEGISLATURE ON PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASS SIZES.

1 WHEREAS, a well-rounded education requires manageable class
2 sizes that allow teachers to deliver personalized and
3 individuated instruction to their students; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Institute of Education Sciences, the research
6 arm of the United States Department of Education, has concluded
7 that class-size reduction is one of only four evidence-based
8 reforms that have been proven to increase student achievement;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, research by the National Education Association has
12 found that reducing class sizes in lower-income school districts
13 helps to increase student achievement and students' test scores,
14 alleviate strain on teachers, and raise college acceptance
15 rates; and
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17 WHEREAS, additional research published by the Center for
18 Educational Equity discovered that smaller class sizes may
19 attract high-quality teachers, leading to the adoption of
20 policies to reduce class sizes in California and Florida; and
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22 WHEREAS, experiments in Tennessee, Wisconsin, and other
23 states have demonstrated that students in smaller classes score
24 better on standardized tests, receive better grades, and exhibit
25 improved attendance; and
26

27 WHEREAS, research also shows that the students who benefit
28 the most from smaller class sizes come from poor and minority
29 backgrounds, and experience twice the achievement gains of the
30 average student; and
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32 WHEREAS, a study commissioned by the United States
33 Department of Education analyzed the achievement of students in



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1 2,561 schools across the nation by their performance on the
2 National Assessment of Educational Progress and found that,
3 after controlling for student background, the only objective
4 factor that correlated with higher test scores was class size;
5 now, therefore,

6
7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2021, that the Department of Education is requested to
10 provide a report to the Legislature regarding public school
11 class sizes; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report contain information
14 on:

- 15
16 (1) The number of classes at each school that exceed the
17 optimum class size ratios contained in Board of
18 Education Policy 106-2, including the subject matter
19 and grade level for such classes;
20
21 (2) The average number of individualized education
22 programs for which special education care coordinators
23 are responsible for at each school, including the
24 total number of care coordinators whose
25 responsibilities exceed that average;
26
27 (3) The average student-teacher ratio for all general
28 education classes at each school, including the total
29 number of general education classes that exceed that
30 average;
31
32 (4) The average student-teacher ratio for all special
33 education classes at each school; disaggregated by
34 inclusion, resource, and fully self-contained classes;
35 and including the total number of special education
36 classes that exceed those averages;
37
38 (5) The average student-teacher ratio for all content-
39 based English-language learning classes at each
40 school, including the total number of content-based



- 1 English-language learning classes that exceed that
- 2 average;
- 3
- 4 (6) The average total student workload for teachers at
- 5 each school, disaggregated by subject matter and grade
- 6 level, and the total number of teachers whose total
- 7 student workload exceeds that average; and
- 8
- 9 (7) The impact on public school class sizes of school
- 10 disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including
- 11 the implementation of remote learning programs; and
- 12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the class size report does not
14 include non-classroom teachers in its calculations; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
18 Education and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:


FEB 26 2021

