
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RECOMMEND AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPROVE A PLAN TO SHIFT ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY AND NON-DISCRETIONARY FUNDS INTO THE WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA FUND.

1 WHEREAS, through Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, the
2 state of Hawaii embarked upon a new and ground-breaking approach
3 to funding education through the creation of the Weighted
4 Student Formula, a funding mechanism whereby moneys are
5 allocated to schools based on a system of weighted
6 characteristics that apply to each and every student in the
7 public schools; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Weighted Student Formula was enacted because
10 it recognizes that the costs of educating students can be much
11 more accurately assessed based upon the unique learning needs of
12 each student, and provides that funds follow students to
13 whichever school they attend; and
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15 WHEREAS, language in Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004,
16 stated that the "weighted student formula cannot be effective in
17 a vacuum," and that to be effective Principals must "be
18 empowered to act as the educational leaders of their schools,
19 with more authority relating to budgeting, and more flexibility
20 to expend funds"; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has reported to the
23 Legislature what funds could be expended by principals to
24 increase the expended funds to 80% and 90%; and
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26 WHEREAS, categorical programs are programs that are
27 designated for special purposes and are usually allocated with
28 strict funding regulation and spending guidelines; and
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1 WHEREAS, the inclusion of categorical programs in the
2 schools budget means that the principals do not have the freedom
3 to spend these funds on their schools' unique needs; and
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5 WHEREAS, categorical programs limit school community
6 flexibility to provide student focused programs and support
7 intended by Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004; and
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9 WHEREAS, a feasibility study by the DOE conducted on the
10 Weighted Student Formula found listed categorical funds that
11 could be included in the Weighted Student Formula; and
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13 WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, established
14 the Committee on Weights to develop the Weighted Student
15 Formula; and
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17 WHEREAS, one of the important duties of the Committee on
18 Weights is the examination of categorical programs, and to make
19 recommendations on which categorical programs can be placed into
20 the Weighted Student Formula; and
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22 WHEREAS, the most recent Committee on Weights and the Board
23 of Education did not place additional categorical programs into
24 the Weighted Student Formula for the 2008-2009 school year; and
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26 WHEREAS, the failure to place more categorical programs
27 into the Weighted Student Formula means that the principals will
28 continue to be denied the essential flexibility and control over
29 their budget to deal with their schools' distinct needs; and
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31 WHEREAS, all educational stakeholders, such as school
32 community councils, principals, school administrators, and the
33 DOE and its employees need to prepare for the movement of
34 categorical programs into the weighted student formula each year
35 so that schools can begin preparing and planning for the fiscal
36 and operational impacts; and
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38 WHEREAS, in order for the Weighted Student Formula to work
39 it is incumbent upon all elected officials to resist the
40 temptation to place new burdens on local schools through the
41 creation of more categorical program and statewide education
42 positions; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
4 Education is requested to create a four year implementation plan
5 that addresses the organizational, resource, and statutory
6 changes necessary for the further allocation of operational
7 funds into the weighted student formula fund; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this plan incorporates a
10 specific timeline consisting of an increasing percentage of
11 categorical programs to be moved into the weighted student
12 formula each year so that educational stakeholders can prepare
13 plan, and transition; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department provide such
16 plan for 60%, 70%, and 80% of the operational budget allocated
17 via the Weighted Student Formula; and.
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education be urged
20 to adopt a four year implementation plan to move categorical
21 programs into the Weighted Student Formula Fund starting School
22 Year 2009-2010; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to all members of the Board
26 of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Governor, the
27 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of
28 the Senate.
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OFFERED BY:



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