

JAN 18 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended
2 by Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, required the
3 implementation of a new allocation method, the weighted student
4 formula, to distribute funds to schools based on the
5 characteristics of the students. Act 51, as amended, also
6 created the committee on weights whose responsibility is to
7 recommend a formula and various weights of characteristics to
8 the board of education. With two years of experience, it has
9 become apparent that, to provide stability and predictability
10 for the principals and the school community councils, an
11 improved practice would be to have the committee on weights meet
12 every odd numbered year rather than each year. Schools that are
13 developing academic and financial plans to improve student
14 achievement need to be assured of constant funding over a
15 two-year period.

16 The purpose of this Act is to provide that the committee on
17 weights will meet every odd numbered year.



1 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1303.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
2 is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) There is established within the department of
4 education the committee on weights to develop a weighted student
5 formula pursuant to section 302A-1303.6. The committee shall:

- 6 (1) Create a list of student characteristics that will be
7 weighted;
- 8 (2) Create a system of weights based upon the student
9 characteristics that may be applied to determine the
10 relative cost of educating any student;
- 11 (3) Determine specific student weights, including their
12 unit value;
- 13 (4) Determine which moneys shall be included in the amount
14 of funds to be allocated through the weighted student
15 formula;
- 16 (5) Recommend a weighted student formula to the board of
17 education;
- 18 (6) Perform any other function that may facilitate the
19 implementation of the weighted student formula; and
- 20 (7) Meet not less than [~~annually~~] biennially, every
21 odd-numbered year, to review the weighted student
22 formula and, if the committee deems it necessary,



1 recommend a new weighted student formula for adoption
2 by the board of education."

3 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1303.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 "§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula. Based upon
6 recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of
7 education, not less than [~~annually,~~] biennially, shall adopt a
8 weighted student formula for the allocation of moneys to public
9 schools that takes into account the educational needs of each
10 student. The department, upon the receipt of appropriated
11 moneys, shall use the weighted student formula to allocate funds
12 to public schools. Principals shall expend moneys provided to
13 the principals' schools. This section shall only apply to
14 charter schools for fiscal years in which the charter schools
15 elect pursuant to section 302B-13 to receive allocations
16 according to the weighted student formula."

17 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY: Norman Subenski
Jim

Report Title:

Committee on Weights; Biennial Meetings

Description:

Requires that the department of education committee on weights meet biennially every odd numbered year, instead of annually.

