



## **WEIGHTED STUDENT FORMULA**

***Senator Norman Sakamoto***

December 9, 2005

The Weighted Student Formula (WSF) is still a "work in progress". The Board of Education (BOE) voted to implement the WSF. However, the Department of Education (DOE) and BOE committee on weights will continue to work toward improving the formula. Prior to this weighted funding, the "one-size fits all" allocation of resources to the schools did not fairly distribute resources based on the educational needs of the students.

The reality of schools "losing" or "gaining" funds has been the main topic over the past several months. However, the main goal that we wanted to achieve was to allow schools the ability to decide what is best for their school and their students. The paramount change that the formula will help to facilitate is the transition to school level financial decision making.

There are several actions that concerned school personnel, parents, community members and individuals could do:

- 1) Work on setting priorities within the school for the best use of funds.
- 2) Seek to partner with other neighboring schools and investigate shared resources.
- 3) Work to get the "Educational Funding Pie" enlarged. More resources to education can come from the legislative appropriations, grants from the government and non-profits or from community support from business and others in the community.
- 4) Be involved with the dialogue regarding the WSF and the share of funds that goes to the WSF.