

Date of Hearing: February, 2, 2009

Committee: Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 746 Relating to Education

Purpose: Establishes a two-year project within a designated complex area, authorizes the complex area superintendent to reallocate resources with the schools in the complex

Department's Position: The Department opposes SB 746.

The Hawaii Revised Statutes already charges principals, HRS302A-1103, and Complex Area Superintendents, HRS302A-1124, to work together within their complex area to achieve greater efficiencies and cost effectiveness in the operation of schools and the delivery of instruction and instructional supports. The most effective means to determine which resources could be reallocated is through consultation and collaboration with affected school communities. That is precisely the means used by the Complex Area Superintendents today. Discussions regarding the reallocation of resources within complex areas to achieve greater fiscal and instructional efficiencies are already occurring.

Exempting a complex area from department-wide budget cuts during this fiscal climate will increase the negative effect of

those budget cuts and restrictions on the rest of the complex areas and schools. Exempting a pilot complex area from department-wide budget cuts and restrictions will remove the urgency to find greater efficiencies and cost effectiveness due to reduced budgets. Furthermore, no complex area or school can be exempted from negative impact of department-wide budget cuts or restrictions because most of the budget cuts to date are borne by complex area and state office providing support to all schools.

The Department in SY09-10 will be allocating funds to the Complex Area Superintendents based on the measureable organizational needs within their complex area. Complex Area Superintendents have flexibility in using this budget to support schools in a manner consistent with the school's identified needs and academic plans. Exempting a complex area from budget restrictions would potentially cause some complex areas not to receive the full allocation amount, prevent the Department from streamlining and realigning its available resources to support its administrators and teachers in improving student achievement.

Because this bill does not exempt the pilot complex area superintendent, or the department, from existing collective bargaining agreements any significant reallocation of resources

between schools would still require lengthy negotiations with the affected unions.



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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education and Housing  
Testimony by  
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152  
February 02, 2009

**SB 746 Relating To Education**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO provides the following comments.

The department of education implemented Weighted Student Formula (WSF) as required by Act 51, SLH 2004. Act 51 essentially described WSF as a new funding methodology for schools that would provide schools greater flexibility to determine their staffing needs. The department was responsible to enter into consultation and negotiations as appropriate with the respective unions. Keep in mind that one of the consequences of WSF is the adverse impact on employees. Employees have been reassigned; reduce in full-time-equivalent (FTE); reassigned from permanent to temporary positions and ultimately employees are unemployed. We remind the legislature that any additional effort to implement a form of weighted student formula at the complex level will require consultation and negotiations with HGEA as the exclusive representative for bargaining units 02, 03, 04, 06, 09 & 13.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leiomalama E. Desha'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Leiomalama E. Desha  
Executive Assistant