



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 17, 2015

TO: The Honorable Brian De Lima
Chairperson, Committee on Finance and Infrastructure

FROM: 
Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Recommendation for Committee Action on the
Composition of the Committee on Weights IX**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee on Finance and Infrastructure (Committee) approve the proposed composition of the Committee on Weights (COW) IX as specified in Attachment A.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Board approval.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

The Department of Education (Department) is preparing to convene the COW to review the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) and recommend to the Board the formula to be used for allocating state funds to schools for School Year (SY) 2016-17, the school year after next.

b. Previous action of the Board on the same or similar matter

Every year from 2005 to 2011, the Board has determined the composition of the COW consistent with Hawaii Revised Statutes 302A-1303.5. Based on Act 93, SLH 2011, the COW now meets every odd year. In May of 2013, the Board approved the Department's recommendation on the composition of the COW.

c. Other policies affected

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

The proposed COW IX composition as specified in Attachment B represents the unique and diverse characteristics and needs of schools, such as small, rural, and combination schools. It also aims to address concerns by school principals regarding the challenges of providing students with a well-rounded curriculum, following the inclusion of categorical funds into the WSF formula. The recommended composition of 17 members would permit the COW IX to have about the same number of members as COW VII (15) and COW VIII (15).

This composition and number of members:

- Ensure a diversity of viewpoints on the committee;
- Is compact enough to allow the committee to coordinate schedules to complete the task during the spring and summer in order to provide a recommendation to the Board by August 2015; and
- Is manageable with regards to funding travel and other related expenses that are required to bring all committee members to Oahu for the meetings.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

None.

f. Other agencies or departments of the State involved in the action

None.

- g. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, Department staff and/or others to the recommendations

It is possible that some may want a different composition.

- h. Educational implication

Schools and students should benefit from a COW representative, due to the diversity of school communities.

- i. Personnel implications

None.

- j. Facilities implications

None.

- k. Financial implications

It is anticipated that the COW will hold approximately five to six meetings over the spring and summer. Travel and related expenses will be covered from the WSF Support budget of approximately \$6,000 in both FY15 and FY16.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

KSM:GZ:lgf

Attachments

c: Budget Branch

§302A-1303.5 Committee on weights.

- (a) There is established within the department of education the committee on weights to develop a weighted student formula pursuant to section 302A-1303.6. The committee may:
 - (1) Create a list of student characteristics that will be weighted;
 - (2) Create a system of weights based upon the student characteristics that may be applied to determine the relative cost of educating any student;
 - (3) Determine specific student weights, including their unit value;
 - (4) Determine which moneys shall be included in the amount of funds to be allocated through the weighted student formula;
 - (5) Recommend a weighted student formula to the board of education;
 - (6) Perform any other function that may facilitate the implementation of the weighted student formula; and
 - (7) Meet not less than once every odd-numbered year, to review the weighted student formula and, if the committee deems it necessary, recommend a new weighted student formula for adoption by the board of education.
- (b) The composition of the committee on weights shall be determined by the board of education based on recommendations from the superintendent of education and dean of the University of Hawaii at Manoa college of education and include principals, teachers, and other members with the appropriate professional skills, experiences, and qualifications needed to facilitate the work of the committee. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall chair the committee on weights.
- (c) The committee on weights may form advisory subcommittees to obtain input from key stakeholders as determined necessary by the committee.
- (d) The members of the committee on weights shall serve at the pleasure of the board of education and shall not be subject to section 26-34. Members of the committee on weights shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties. [L 2004, c 51, §3; am L 2011, c 93, §2; am L 2012, c 133, §23]

Committee on Weights Composition

Attachment B

COW VIII Recommended Composition

2	Oahu High School Principals
2	Neighbor Island High School Principals
1	Combination School Principals
1	Multi-track Principal
1	Middle School Principal
1	Elementary School Principal
4	SCC (non-teacher/principal) members (2 Oahu 2 NI)
1	Registrar
1	School Administrative Services Assistant
1	Representative for the Superintendent

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COW IX Recommended Composition

2	Oahu High School Principals
2	Neighbor Island Elementary School Principals
2	Combination School Principals (1 Oahu; 1 NI)
1	Multi-track Principal
1	Middle School Principal
1	Elementary School Principal
2	Teachers
2	SCC (non-teacher/principal) members (1 Oahu; 1 NI)
1	Registrar
1	School Administrative Services Assistant
1	Complex Area Business Manager
1	Representative for the Superintendent

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