




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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 18, 2018

TO: The Honorable Kenneth Uemura
Chairperson, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Committee Action on Board of Education Policy 301-2 Creating
Communities of Learners**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Finance and Infrastructure Committee (FIC) recommend to the Board of Education (BOE) that:

An Urban Exception (see Attachment A) be made to Board Policy 301-2 Creating Communities of Learners (see Attachment B), which sets forth guidelines for new school enrollment capacities and campus land area.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon approval of the BOE.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE (if different from the effective date)

Not applicable.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation:

The Department of Education (DOE) is in the initial planning stages for new schools in the urban corridor along the planned rail route. With transit oriented development (TOD) projected to generate increased enrollment well beyond the capacity of existing schools, there is expected to be a need to site several new schools in urban areas. Policy 301-2 was established for new school designs in large scale

residential developments where open land for schools was readily available. An Urban Exception to Policy 301-2 is needed to reconcile policy guidelines with the condition of limited available land in existing urban areas.

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

None.

c. Other policies affected:

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

An Urban Exception to Policy 301-2 will allow the DOE to consider a wider set of potential sites for new schools in the urban area.

e. Arguments against the recommendation:

None.

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

None.

g. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, DOE staff and/or others to the recommendation:

At this time, we have no formal comments from the effected stakeholders that would indicate what their reaction might be.

h. Educational implications:

Limited land areas for schools will require that future schools be designed and built in a vertical typology. It may also require that outdoor activities be conducted on adjacent land areas such as City parks or other urban school campuses.

i. Personnel implications:

None.

j. Facilities implications:

There is expected to be a rise in the cost to construct schools in the urban area, due to vertical construction and limited areas to stage construction work.

k. Financial implications:

Reduced cost for new school sites.

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

CMK:jmb
Attachments

c: Office of School Facilities and Support Services
Facilities Development Branch

DRAFT

POLICY 301-2-UE

URBAN EXCEPTION

In existing urban areas, where new housing development requires new school facilities to be built, the Department of Education (DOE) shall be allowed to amend useable acre minimums listed in Board of Education Policy 301-2 (as outlined below).

Elementary	(preK-5)	750 students	3 useable acres
Middle	(6-8)	1000 students	6 useable acres
High	(9-12)	1600 students	10 useable acres

(Usable is generally defined as land free of encumbrances determined to be unnecessary by the DOE, slope of five percent or less, with no ravines or stream beds. The DOE will make the final determination as to whether land is usable based on an evaluation of the specific property taken in the context of the development as a whole.)

(These exceptions to BOE Policy 301-2 only apply in urban areas where the availability of land is limited to infill sites.)

Every effort should be made to ensure that all educational needs are met when designing and siting new urban school facilities. Where possible, the DOE should seek design solutions that help to create environments which can support “communities of learners” initiatives.

POLICY 301-2

CREATING COMMUNITIES OF LEARNERS

The Department of Education shall design school facilities that create smaller communities of learners. For existing schools with high enrollments, the department and school staff shall analyze their school performance indicators to determine if the school size is negatively impacting student achievement. If student achievement is found to be negatively impacted, school staff and community members shall identify and implement educational programs that create smaller communities of learners.

To foster greater personalization established through programmatic and/or smaller communities of learners, while still providing needed flexibility when planning schools for new communities, the following design enrollment guidelines for new schools are:

Elementary (K-5) 400-750 students 8 to 15 usable acres

Middle (6-8) 500-1,000 students 15 to 20 usable acres

High (9-12) 800-1,600 students 45 to 55 usable acres

(Usable is generally defined as land free of encumbrances determined to be unnecessary by the department of education, slope of five percent or less, with no ravines or stream beds. The Department of Education will make the final determination as to whether land is usable based on an evaluation of the specific property taken in the context of the development as a whole.)

Rationale: Research studies show that a larger student enrollment may cause depersonalization of a school's environment, thereby deterring the development of positive student attitude, behavior and academic achievement.

[Approved: 02/17/2015 (as Board Policy 301.2); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 301-2)]

Former policy 6701 history: approved: 03/20/1997; revised: 04/18/2002, 12/2007, 06/2008