




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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 21, 2019

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

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto 
Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Committee Action on Composition of Committee on Weights XI**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Finance and Infrastructure Committee (Committee) approve the proposed composition of the Committee on Weights XI (COW XI) 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 XI to review the Weighted Student Formula (WSF) and recommend to the Committee the formula to be used for allocating any state funds that may be appropriated during the 2019 legislative session to schools beginning in School Year (SY) 2020-21 and beyond. It is anticipated that the COW XI will perform their statutorily defined duty of proposing a formula to distribute the Department's limited resources to support school operations in a manner that reflects the relative cost of educating any student, with due consideration afforded to the goals, objectives, and strategies of the Hawaii State Department of Education & Board of Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020, Governor Ige's Blueprint for Public Education, and the State's consolidated plan for Every Student Succeeds Act for federal funding. (See Attachment A.)

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

Every year from 2005 to 2011, then with an amendment to state law every odd numbered year beginning 2013, the Committee has approved the composition of the COW consistent with Hawaii Revised Statutes §302A-1303.5.

- c. Other policies affected:

None.

- d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

The proposed COW XI composition broadly represents the unique and diverse characteristics of schools, such as small, rural, neighbor island, and combination schools. It aims to give voice to schools' concerns regarding the challenges of providing students with a well-rounded curriculum, using WSF funds in addition to categorical funding and support. The proposed COW XI size and composition strikes a balance between having diverse viewpoints with the logistical need to coordinate schedules. Approving the composition will allow the COW XI to complete the task over the spring and summer so that any amendments would have a chance to be incorporated into the SY 2020-21 formula, which will need to be set no later than August 2019. (See Attachment B.)

- e. Arguments against the recommendation:

None.

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

As defined in the law, the Dean of the College of Education was consulted and concurred with the recommended COW XI composition.

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

It is possible that some interest groups may prefer a different composition.

- h. Educational implication:

Schools and students should benefit from a COW XI representative of the diversity of school communities.

- i. Personnel implications:

None.

- j. Facilities implications:

None.

k. Financial implications:

It is anticipated that the COW XI will hold approximately five to six meetings over the spring and summer. Travel and related expenses will be covered from the Budget Branch funds of approximately \$6,000 available in both Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 and FY 2019-20.

CMK:gz
Attachments

c: Budget Branch

Statutory Authority for:
Committee on Weights and
Weighted Student Formula

§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]

§302A-1303.6 Weighted student formula. Based upon recommendations from the committee on weights, the board of education may adopt a weighted student formula for the allocation of moneys to public schools that takes into account the educational needs of each student. The department, upon the receipt of appropriated moneys, shall use the weighted student formula to allocate funds to public schools. Principals shall expend moneys provided to the principals' schools. This section shall only apply to charter schools for fiscal years in which the charter schools elect pursuant to section 302D-29 to receive allocations according to the procedures and methodology used to calculate the weighted student formula allocation. [L 2004, c 51, §4 and am c 221, §7; am L 2006, c 298, §13; am L 2011, c 93, §3; am L 2012, c 130, §12 and c 133, §24]

Committee on Weights XI

Role Group	
1	Superintendent's Designee (Co-Chair)
2	Complex Area Superintendent (Co-Chair)
3	Teacher
4	Teacher - Special Education
5	School Administrative Services Assistant (HSOSA)
6	Complex Area Business Manager
7	Community Member
8	Community Member
9	Registrar
10	Oahu Elementary School Principal
11	Oahu High School Principal
12	Oahu Middle School Principal
13	Neighbor Island Elementary School Principal
14	Neighbor Island Middle School Principal
15	Neighbor Island High School Principal
16	Combo School Principal
17	Low Enrollment School
18	Rural / Isolated School

Note: Committee members may represent more than one role group.