



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

February 15, 2018

TO: Finance and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Kenneth Uemura
Chairperson, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Action on Board of Education Policy 301-2 Creating Communities of Learners

I. BACKGROUND

On January 18, 2018, the Finance and Infrastructure Committee (“Committee”) took action to recommend that the Board of Education (“Board”) adopt proposed Board Policy 301-2-UE, Urban Exception, as described in the Department of Education’s (“Department”) memorandum, dated January 18, 2018,¹ with amendments to provide flexibility in acreage and enrollment. As explained by the Department to the Committee, an urban exception to Board Policy 301-2, Creating Communities of Learners, would allow the Department to consider a wider set of potential sites for new schools in the urban area. The Committee indicated that the Department should amend usable acre and enrollment references in order to allow the Department to have flexibility and prevent future impediments to progress. At the January 18, 2018 Board General Business Meeting, the Committee asked the Board to defer action to the February 1, 2018 General Business Meeting to allow the Department time to draft the specific policy amendments for the Board’s consideration and approval.

At the February 1, 2018 General Business Meeting, the Department presented proposed amendments to Board Policy 301-2 to the Board. However, the recommended policy included in the Department’s February 1, 2018 memorandum did not adequately reflect the amendments the Committee approved and included several unexplained changes.² The Board voted to re-refer action to the Committee.

¹ The Department memorandum, dated January 18, 2018, is available here: http://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/FIC_01182018_Committee%20Action%20on%20BOE%20Policy%20301-2%20Creating%20Communities%20of%20Learners.pdf.

² The Department memorandum, dated February 1, 2018, is available here: http://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/GBM_02012018_Board%20Action%20on%20FIC%20Recommendations%20Concerning%20BOE%20Policy%20301-2%20Creating%20Communities%20of%20Learners.pdf.

For the February 15, 2018 Committee meeting, the Department has provided the Committee with a memorandum that includes the same changes it proposed at the Board's February 1, 2018 General Business Meeting.³

II. RECOMMENDATION

The Department's proposed policy (clean version attached as **Exhibit A**) is unchanged from the February 1, 2018 Board General Business Meeting and therefore still does not address the amendments previously approved by the Committee. While the Department's memoranda do not explain many of the changes to Board Policy 301-2 it proposes, most seem to be either the result from combining its first proposed policy (Board Policy 301-2-UE, Urban Exception) with Board Policy 301-2 or non-substantive changes for clarity. Therefore, I recommend keeping the Department's proposed amendments.

In addition to the Department's amendments, I propose a provision to the policy that provides the Department with flexibility to propose land sites with usable acres or enrollment different from the guidelines under the policy, subject to Board approval. I also recommend other non-substantive changes for consistency and clarity. I have included my redlined proposed amendments in **Exhibit B**.

Proposed motion to the Committee: Move to recommend the Board adopt the amendments to Board Policy 301-2, Creating Communities of Learners, as described in Exhibit B of Board Member Kenneth Uemura's memorandum, dated February 15, 2018.

³ The Department memorandum, dated February 15, 2018, is available here: http://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/FIC_02152018_Committe%20Action%20on%20BOE%20Policy%20301-2%20Creating%20Communities%20of%20Learners.pdf.

Exhibit A
Clean Version of Department’s Proposed Board Policy 301-2, Creating Communities of Learners

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 state office and school staff shall analyze their school performance indicators to determine if the school size is negatively affecting student achievement. If student achievement is found to be negatively affected, school staff and community members shall identify and implement educational programs that create smaller communities of learners.

To foster greater personalization established through educational programming and smaller communities of learners while providing flexibility when planning schools for new communities, design enrollment guidelines for new schools shall be:

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

In existing urban areas where the availability of land is limited to infill sites and where new housing developments require the construction of new school facilities, design enrollment guidelines for new schools shall be:

Elementary (preK-5)	400-750 students	2.5 to 3 useable acres
Middle (6-8)	500-1000 students	5 to 6 useable acres
High (9-12)	800-1600 students	8 to 10 useable acres

The Department shall make every effort to ensure that all educational needs are met when designing and siting new urban-based school facilities. Where possible, the Department should seek design solutions that create environments conducive to creating communities of learners in urban areas.

(The Department shall 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. Usable is generally defined as land free of encumbrances determined to be unnecessary by the Department, slope of five percent or less, and with no ravines or stream beds.)

Rationale: Research studies show that a larger student enrollment may depersonalize the school environment, thereby negatively affecting student attitude, behavior, and academic achievement.

Exhibit B
**Department's Proposed Board Policy 301-2, Creating Communities of Learners, with
Board Member Kenneth Uemura's Redlined Proposed Changes**

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 state office and school staff shall analyze their school performance indicators to determine if the school size is negatively affecting student achievement. If student achievement is found to be negatively affected, school staff and community members shall identify and implement educational programs that create smaller communities of learners.

To foster greater personalization established through educational programming and smaller communities of learners while providing flexibility when planning schools for new communities, design enrollment guidelines for new schools shall be:

Elementary (<u>pre</u> K-5)	400 <u>-to</u> 750 students	8 to 15 usable acres
Middle (6-8)	500 <u>-to</u> 1,000 students	15 to 20 usable acres
High (9-12)	800 <u>-to</u> 1,600 students	45 to 55 usable acres

In existing urban areas where the availability of land is limited to infill sites and where new housing developments require the construction of new school facilities, design enrollment guidelines for new schools shall be:

Elementary (preK-5)	400 <u>-to</u> 750 students	2.5 to 3 useable acres
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The Department shall make every effort to ensure that all educational needs are met when designing and siting new urban-based school facilities. Where possible, the Department should seek design solutions that create environments conducive to creating communities of learners in urban areas.

{The Department shall 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. Usable is generally defined as land free of encumbrances determined to be unnecessary by the Department, slope of five percent or less, and with no ravines or stream-beds. Usable land for the construction of new school facilities with usable acres or enrollment other than established in these design enrollment guidelines shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Education.}

Rationale: Research studies show that a larger student enrollment may depersonalize the school environment, thereby negatively affecting student attitude, behavior, and academic achievement.