



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 8, 2026

TO: The Honorable Ken Kuraya
Chairperson, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

FROM:  for
Keith T. Hayashi
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Action on Department of Education proposal to proceed with policy revision of
Board policy related to student fees

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) seeks approval by the Hawai'i State Board of Education (Board) to proceed with proposing amendments to Board Policy 303-11 (After-School Plus (A+) Student Fees) by renaming it "Student Fees" and establishing an authorization framework for all student fees.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Department seeks approval to proceed with proposing amendments to Board Policy 303-11 (After-School Plus (A+) Student Fees). The intent of the proposal is to rename the policy to "Student Fees" and establish a framework that designates authority for the establishment and adjustment of student fees as follows:

1. The Board would establish fees and approve fee adjustments for statewide programs, when directed by state law.
2. The Superintendent would approve the establishment or adjustment of fees for all other department-wide fees, including the authority to establish a maximum allowable fee, a methodology for setting a fee, and/or a set fee.
3. School principals would be authorized to approve fees for co-curricular programs or activities that are specific to their school, provided that the amount of the fees is aligned with the actual cost of the programs or activities.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

(Board Policy 303-11 suggested amendments in ramseyer format below)

POLICY 303-11

AFTER-SCHOOL PLUS (A+) STUDENT FEES

Student fees may be charged for students to participate in co-curricular programs and activities or to use optional support services. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to establish fee schedules, except as otherwise provided by law.

Student fees will be established and adjusted in the following manner:

1. The Board shall establish fees and approve fee adjustments for statewide programs, when directed by state law.
2. The Superintendent shall approve the establishment or adjustment of fees for all other department-wide fees. The Superintendent's approval may include a maximum allowable fee, a methodology for setting a fee, and/or a set fee.
3. School principals may approve fees for co-curricular programs or activities that are specific to their school, provided that the amount of the fees is aligned with the actual cost of the programs or activities.

The Department shall provide an annual report to the Board no later than December 31 with a summary of statewide student fees for the forthcoming school year.

~~Pursuant to Chapter 400 of Title 8, Hawaii Administrative Rules, entitled "After-School Plus (A+) Program," the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to establish a fee schedule for the A+ program that shall:~~

- ~~● Reflect the actual cost per child to run a self-sustaining A+ program~~

[Approved: 02/17/2015 (as Board Policy 303.11); amended: 06/21/2016 (renumbered as Board Policy 303-11)]

3. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

The Department recommends that the revised Board Policy 303-11 become effective immediately upon approval by the Board.

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

Not applicable.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation:

The Department charges fees to students for various school activities and services. Different laws, rules, policies, and procedures establish the authority and basis for fees, including Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) and Hawai'i Administrative Rules (HAR).

HRS, HAR and Board policies authorize different parties to set fees, varying by fee type. HRS, HAR and Board policies also set the basis for establishing the fees which vary whether the costs are subsidized by other funds (e.g., state general funds) or is expected to cover the cost associated with the fee's purpose.

This proposal creates a structured framework for fee setting authority for consistency and to create conditions for efficient planning by families, schools, Department offices, and service providers. This proposal does not propose to establish or adjust the amount of fees. The proposal uses the structure of the current policy for setting fees for A+ afterschool services which delegates authority to the Superintendent and establishes actual cost as the basis for the fee.

b. Previous action of the Board and Committee(s) on the same or similar matter:

On February 13, 2025, the Board approved the Finance and Infrastructure Committee recommendation to increase summer school fees and select school meal fees, as required by HAR § 8-32 and HAR§ 8-30, respectively.

On October 9, 2025, the Board approved an increase in maximum allowable co-curricular student activity fees, as required by HAR §8-32-2.

c. Other policies affected:

The table below identifies student fees under the purview of the Department and Board. Upon the Board's approval of the proposal to amend Board Policy 303-11, the Department will review whether conforming amendments will be needed for any of the policies noted in the table. In particular [HAR §8-32](#), Collection of Fees and Authorized Charges, will be reviewed and revised to align with the intent of the proposed amendment.

Program	Authorization	Basis of fee	Decision maker
Transportation	HAR §8-27-3	Not more than 50% of the cost, provided the state covers the balance	Via HAR
Driver education	HRS §302A-416	(Not specified)	Board

Class dues (middle/intermediate and high schools), student association fees, and school club dues [max charge]	HAR §8-32-2		Board
School meals	HAR §8-37-3 HRS §302A-405	Not less than one quarter of the cost of preparing the meal	Superintendent, upon approval of the Board.
Summer School	HAR §8-30-2		Superintendent, upon approval of the Board. Complex Area Superintendent or designee may waive tuition if state appropriated funds are available to cover the cost.
Adult education	HAR §8-33 HRS §302A-435	Cost of program	Superintendent based on recommendations of advisory council. Principal for supplies and materials.
A+ (afterschool) program	HAR §8-400-19 Board Policy 303-11	Cost of program	Superintendent
Athletic books, yearbooks, newspapers, and caps and gowns [max charge]	HAR §8-32-5		Superintendent
Other co-curricular activities (student ID, locker, towel, student planner, graduation, parking)	HRS §302A-1130 HAR §8-32-2 SP 1905		Activities must be authorized by the principal. Fees must be recommended by the principal and approved by the School Community Council.
Fee for services of students not enrolled in the Department	Board Policy 303-10	"Reasonable"	

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation:

The proposed amendments will:

- **Standardize governance of student fees:** Provides a consistent framework for establishing and adjusting fees across all Department programs. Clarifies roles and responsibilities for setting fees.
- **Provide an opportunity for operational efficiency:** Eliminates fragmented authority, enabling more efficient planning for schools, families, and Department offices. Improves maintenance of fees and predictability of estimating revenue to support educational programs.
- **Improve oversight:** Facilitates a regular, systemwide review of fee structures rather than ad-hoc approvals.

The Superintendent and Department already have the proposed authority to set certain fees (e.g., A+ fees), so the recommendation is consistent with existing policies.

To the extent that the fees are based on actual expenditures or cost recovery, whether subsidized or not, the basis for setting fees is a management activity rather than a policy decision that rises to the level of the governing board.

e. Arguments against the recommendation:

The Board would delegate authority to the Superintendent to set more types of fees. Some stakeholders may want the opportunity to provide testimony in the decision-making process.

f. Other agencies or departments of the State of Hawai'i involved in the action:

None.

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

As stated above in section e, some stakeholders may want the opportunity to provide testimony in the decision-making process. They may be concerned that this change offers fewer opportunities for the public to provide their input regarding fees charged to students.

h. Educational implication:

Some fees may impact educational programs at the school level, summer school, and adult education.

i. Personnel implications:

None.

j. Facilities implications:

None.

k. Financial implications:

None. The proposed policy change only affects the fee setting structure and does not propose to establish any fees or make any fee adjustments.

6. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

KTH:ko

c: Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance