

**Department of Education
Queen Liliuokalani Building
Committee on Weights X
Meeting 4 Minutes
March 31, 2017**

Members: Mitchell Otani (Chair), Chad “Keoni” Farias (Vice Chair), Daniel Hamada, Justin Hughey, Jan Iwase, Elton Kinoshita, Roxane Martinez, Wendy Matsuzaki, Glen Miyasato, Cary Miyashiro, Gail Nakaahiki, Bill Taylor, Osa Tui

Absent: Justin Hughey, Bruce Naguwa, Ann Paulino

Staff: Kimberly Chee, Lizbeth Guadiz-Franco, Brian Hallett, Ken Kuraya, Gary Zane

Topic	Speaker	Discussion
Opening 9:06 AM	Mitchell Otani	Welcomed Committee Members and Deputy Superintendent Keith Hayashi to the fourth meeting of Committee on Weights. Explained that there’s a few not in attendance due to accreditation.
Public Testimony		No public testimony.
Approval of March 10, 2017 Minutes	Mitchell Otani	Gail Nakaahiki clarified her statements in minutes. Minutes approved with amendments. Bill Taylor moved, Keoni Farias second, passed unanimously.
Budget Update	Brian Hallett	House and Senate has zero for WSF in their budget draft. No mention of WSF in their press release. (Governor \$50 million than reduced to \$10 million). Student Transportation was provide some funding for the contract with anticipated inflation, as well as for positions for the transportation office. Office of Hawaiian Education and Student Information System has been included at \$1 million. A positive was \$2.5 million for School Services and maintenance for things like pest control and tree trimming was added. Utilities, although the Department has asked for \$3.7, the Governor had zero, the House had zero, the Senate at least put \$1.5 million in their draft. So in total, the House added \$8.3 million of what the Board had asked and the Senate added \$8.9 million. Both sides had added funds beyond that for initiatives. The House added \$3.5 million for things like Hawaii Keiki (\$2.8 million), (\$670,000 for alternative teacher certification), (\$100,000 for athletic travel for Molokai and Hana). Senate had similar additions for Hawaii Keiki. They added a couple of positions for Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. And, again, for the alternative teacher program, \$670,000. There’s a still a lot of uncertainty for the revenue and expenditure picture for the state. Collective bargaining is probably the biggest unknown that will impact how negotiations on the budget happen. Also, uncertainty about the Trump Budget and federal funds. But for purposes of the WSF, the likelihood is that there won’t be any extra funds added this year.
	Mitchell Otani	Inquired if ground transportation will be expanding to Maui? Does that impact student transportation costs if they start on Maui?
	SAS Amy Kunz	We’re not expanding services to Maui, just signing new contracts. Implementing the Get on Board program that has been started on the other islands. Maui and Kauai are the last to go through that

		bidding cycle.
	Bill Taylor	Inquired about the impact of President Trump's recent talk about educational money?
	Brian Hallett	Trump released what is called "The Skinny Budget" a few weeks back. In 1½ to 2 months, they'll be releasing the details. The two programs specifically identified were Title II, about \$10.5 million used for professional development, and Twenty-First Century Learning Communities, about \$5.5 million. This is for federal fiscal year 2018 budget which will impact what we receive in our fiscal year 2019, which is the second year of the upcoming biennium. The Twenty-First Century Grant was identified for elimination by the previous administration, but it wasn't. Congress will have a big say in what happens and just because it's in the Trump's budget doesn't mean it's gone.
	SAS Amy Kunz	Informed the Committee that the Superintendent and she were at different conferences and met with Hawaii's Congressional staff on Capitol Hill. Received feedback that they would not accept Trump's budget. That was reinforced when the Superintendent meet with the same Congressional a week later. Title II and Twenty-First Century are big programs. It affects after school programs in all states. Shared concerns expressed by The Counsel of Chief State School Officers. It's not going to happen as the President outlined.
	Chad Farias	Asked if Amy could address some of the proposed budget cuts that will affect education in non-educational ways, like USDA, Food and Drug Administration and the Free Meals Program?
	Amy Kunz	There was an USDA adjustment that was done that we believe will impact our fresh fruit and vegetable program, which is a couple million dollars to us. The Skinny Budget, more details will trickle out as it expands. Keep in mind, the uncertainty level on the federal level is because they are still operating under a continuing resolution (CR). They're still operating from a budget that hasn't been passed from the current fiscal year. So now they have to, by the end of April, figure out if they actually have to pass a budget for the current year, or finish it under the CR, as well as start looking at the budget for the next fiscal year, which needs to be in place by September 30 th , which they haven't had in place for years now. A few years ago, they actually shut down the government because they couldn't pass a CR. So tons of uncertainty on the federal level. We'll continue to watch and monitor. The biggest thing when the federal government shut down happens is our payments come in later. As a state, we're assuming what our payments are floating as we are expending money. The biggest concern is our Free and Reduced Lunch reimbursements being delayed. But we have about a three month operating capital in there that we can continue to feed our students about a 100,000 meals a day while we wait for those reimbursements.
	Brian Hallett	That uncertainty is definitely being discussed at the Legislature and what they're doing with our budget.
	Amy Kunz	The big conversation in Title I is about vouchers to private schools. Our State Constitution prohibits any general fund money to be paid to private or non-secular private schools. We're having the AG look into the federal fund side. That was a question to Secretary De Voss. De Voss said that they're not going to control what the states do, but you'll have to comply with the law. So if the intended use of these funds is to go to private schools and the state doesn't allow it, then that state doesn't get the money. Huge displeasure expressed by Chief of State

		School officers to Secretary De Voss.
	Bill Taylor	Could you address the new Supreme Court Case on SPED? Is that going to affect us right now?
	Brian Hallett / Amy Kunz	Will need to defer that question to the SPED Program.
	Brian Hallett	Bill info to update for SB553 to add categorical funding for rural schools was passed by the Senate, was passed by the House Educational Committee, and is now in Finance awaiting a hearing.
Discussion on Weights	Mitchell Otani	Requested Kimberly Chee to share the outcome of the scenarios requested by the Committee. Asked the Committee members to try to minimize the impact across the board and try not to have any one level bear the brunt of any decisions.
	Kimberly Chee	Presented the scenarios spreadsheet that was requested by members: Scenario A – base funding in relation to average salaries Scenario B – base funding to include 1 VP Scenario C – base funding to include .50 FTE VP Scenario D – scenario A and B Scenario E – new student characteristic and weight for homeless Scenario F – ELL weights set constant Scenario G – scenario F and additional \$10 mil for ELL Scenario H – scenario F and additional \$5 mil for ELL Scenario I – scenario A, B, E, and H
	Mitchell Otani	Asked if there's any program to consider putting in the weights. Stated that larger schools tend to lose funding and smaller schools gain funding.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Shared that is like updating the financial plan with average salaries, so I think we should update base funding also.
	Cary Miyashiro	Expressed that with any change in base funding, the larger schools will take a dollar amount hit more than the other schools.
	Daniel Hamada	Scenario C - Very difficult to do a ½ VP.
	Mitchell Otani	Confirmed that schools cannot buy a .50 FTE VP position.
	Kimberly Chee	Informed Committee that for scenarios B&C, break-even point is approximately 740 students. Greater than shows a decrease in allocations, less than shows an increase in their allocations.
	Cary Miyashiro	It's down to the philosophy of what we're trying to do. Anytime we change the base we'll be taking from the big to the small schools. If we're looking at just increasing the base, we're back to that. Former COWs tried to keep it consistent and only move it if necessary so the big schools don't get hurt.
	Chad Farias	Asked for clarification for scenario B. What are we changing in the base?
	Kimberly Chee	The assumption is that we have no new funding. So all we're doing is moving around existing funding. So if we change the base funding, we will be increasing it by \$90,000 for each school level. But that would need to come from somewhere. Estimated effect will be a decrease in the weight of 1 by \$121 less than before, which means that each school will be receiving \$90,000 regardless of what their enrollment is like.
	Mitchell Otani	Scenario D, change the weight of 1 and larger schools will take a hit.
	Bill Taylor	Inquired if scenario E is the one we'll be adding to the Strategic Plan?
	Mitchell Otani	Confirmed it is in AS Chun's presentation on strategic plan.
	Ken Kuraya	Informed the committee that there is Title I funds set aside for the homeless in OCISS and OSIP. Questions will need to be addressed before the committee decides. Such as: Will the child

		be consistently homeless? Will the child move or stay?
	Mitchell Otani	Shared that Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani CA had a meeting on this regarding Title I. We need to make a plan in all schools with homeless students. We cannot make a weight just for non-Title I schools.
	Cary Miyashiro	Inquired if military funds can be used to address the issue.
	Mitchell Otani	Scenario F. Federal funds, lock. General funds, if we get more money.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Pointed out that in Scenario F, Kauai schools lost money.
	Kimberly Chee	It's more to do with the effect on how much more non-English proficient students are getting. It doesn't need to stay that way, we can adjust the weight. ELL population on Kauai isn't as high needs.
	Cary Miyashiro	Easier for schools.
	Kimberly Chee	More predictable.
	Mitchell Otani	Scenario G and H. \$10 million versus \$5 million additional funds for ELL. Same affect. Scenario I has the largest effect on value of 1.
	Mitchell Otani	Inquired if it is correct to assume that if we do change the weights to reflect an additional \$10 million, there will be more money for more schools?
	Kimberly Chee	An educated guess is yes, if we do receive funds, largest amount to ELL. Being that all schools have an ELL population.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Propose taking Athletic Directors out of the weights. Put in 1 VP to average out high schools.
	Mitchell Otani	Athletic Directors are not in the base. Should we make it categorical? If we put it in categorical, the Legislature might look at it and think it's not needed. Suggest looking at base funding. Would affect all schools.
	Kimberly Chee	Adding Athletic Director to base funding is similar to Scenario B. Athletic Director is just a bit more expensive than a VP.
	Roxane Martinez	Thought we wouldn't take from any one school. This is damaging to the high and middle schools.
	Cary Miyashiro	I agree with Roxane. This will pit larger high schools against smaller schools.
	Mitchell Otani	Suggest adding Athletic Directors to base funding at the weight of 1.
	Break 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	
	Wendy Matsuzaki	Asked how would vouchers affect schools?
	Mitchell Otani	It would not affect allocations to schools.
	Brian Hallett	State law prohibits public money used for private schools.
	Kimberly Chee	Changed based funding from Athletic Director to VP. Four high schools will get less money because they're the biggest schools
	Mitchell Otani	Inquired if elementary and middle schools will lose funds?
	Kimberly Chee	Yes.
	Mitchell Otani	Scenario I. Homeless with the weight of .100. Inquired Committee if we are looking at putting categorical into the weights? If yes, which ones? Asked members to have a short discussion among each other. Then we will revisit categoricals.
	Daniel Hamada	Several scenarios "but" more strategic. Should then there be additional funding for the homeless students.
	Cary Miyashiro	Agree with Daniel. We shouldn't be hurting anyone. We should have a weight for the homeless. Legislature will recognize that we have a concern.
	Elton Kinoshita	Frustrating to know that every discussion affects someone. Agree with homeless decision. As for ELL, don't know what an effective inclusion looks like. Look at the big picture. Better than hiring part time teachers.

	Bill Taylor	Agree with last year's ELL. Agree with Cary on the homeless. Also, regarding lawsuits, are we ready?
	Mitchell Otani	Looked at all categorical programs? Any to take out or add to WSF? At this point, looked at everything multiple times. As a body, we've exhausted all options. As a group, to add the homeless & ELL, we will make this change if we have additional money. Increasing funds to \$10 million will help most schools.
	Gail Nakaahiki	What about prioritizing? And in what order?
	Mitchell Otani	Similar to last Committee on Weights for ELL and the homeless. Every school should have a plan.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Base funding – average cost to see how much.
	Kimberly Chee	Probably logical to have base adjusted for salary, but base funding could drop. Dollars are not tied to these positions.
	Mitchell Otani	Vote to adopt any or all of these for FY 18, FY 19 or both.
	Kimberly Chee	Any changes should be for FY 2018-19.
	Mitchell Otani	Will the Legislature see it before close of session?
	Brian Hallett	Legislature will review starting in mid-April.
	Amy Kunz	We'll take it there.
	Mitchell Otani	What may be added to FY 2017-18?
	Kimberly Chee	New funding. No problem. Shifting formula will need to be implemented for FY 2018-19.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Suggest showing these scenarios to the legislator when you see them to show them how hard these decisions were to make.
	Mitchell Otani	Need to have a discussion with Board & Legislature about Adequacy. No matter what we're getting, it's not enough. Let's look at Scenario A on average salary. Any comments before we call for a vote?
	Gail Nakaahiki	Motion if we have additional funding.
	Mitchell Otani	Motion is for changing base funding.
	Ken Kuraya	Everyone feels they don't want to affect other schools. Only change if allocation is given. They don't want to change out of concern there will be drops in schools.
	Mitchell Otani	How much money do we need so no school is affected?
	Kimberly Chee	\$7.1 million so no school is affected.
	Mitchell Otani	So when you go through collective bargaining, does that automatically reflect?
	Brian Hallett	Based on what we're charging schools, we have collective bargaining on the side so no one is affected. Legislature appropriates and Budget & Finance allocates.
	Mitchell Otani	Prudent that it automatically reflects?
	Brian Hallett	It's calculated every two years.
	Mitchell Otani	Hope that what the Legislature gives us is adequate.
	Kimberly Chee	Recommends that base funding be adjusted every 2 years based on the average salary so we aren't tied to position adjustments every 2 years and updated to match.
	Mitchell Otani	That would be 1 recommendation we can vote on after lunch. Other examples in ELL and Homeless?
	Roxane Martinez	Two scenarios – Homeless, ELL with transit.
	Kimberly Chee	Only require \$600,000 with that change. So, do you want it tied to funding?
	Roxane Martinez	Suggest changing the weights to reflect those changes. Change of \$3 per student is minimal.
	Mitchell Otani	Scenario E. If this is something important to the Governor, State, Mayor, leave it at 1 so we don't take from one to the other.
	Daniel Hamada	Be very careful and consistent so the Legislature will see that the DOE has tapped out, or they will have us handle things from within.
	Chad Farias	Agrees with Daniel Hamada. We need to put up without taking

		away.
	Jan Iwase	Expressed that money for the homeless is not enough and we should ask for more money for after school care and for their needs.
	Mitchell Otani	Propose weight of \$2 million?
	Kimberly Chee	Request funding based on something. We base the amount on a proposed weight to give our requests some basis, rather than just put a dollar amount.
	Gail Nakaahiki	Gifted and Talented and Homeless.
	Kimberly Chee	Statement weight can change.
	Mitchell Otani	Ponder a possible weight of .2 as we look at ELL. We want a fixed rate with an additional \$10 million. Targeting money for things the Committee and Strategic Plan deems important.
	Osa Tui	Homeless qualifies for disadvantaged?
	Ken Kuraya	Students can qualify for multiple weights. Up to the Committee to decide.
	Mitchell Otani	Anything else to work on during lunch to propose a recommendation after lunch? Take some WSF Reserve Fund set aside and gives it to the 7 isolated schools.
Lunch Break 11:45 – 12:45		
Late Public Testimony	Mitchell Otani	Committee accepted and review the email testimony sent by Principal Janette Snelling of Kohala High School at 8:21 a.m. this morning.
	Chad Farias	Kohala High's has a low enrollment and benefitted from the WSF Reserve Fund that went from \$60,000 to \$30,000. Per pupil, Kohala High receives more than a lot of other schools.
	Mitchell Otani	Inquired how large is Lanai High School?
	Elton Kinoshita	Grades 9-12, 150 students.
	Mitchell Otani	Need for Supt's Reserve. Try to work the reserve so it's fair.
Recommendation to the BOE		Base Funding (FY 2018-19): As average salaries are updated for purposes of the schools' Financial Plans, the base funding amount will be adjusted accordingly. No additional funding required. (Bill Taylor motion, Roxane Martinez second, passed unanimously)
		Homeless (FY 2017-18 and FY2018-19): Committee recommends that if additional resources are provided, funding be prioritized to support Homeless students at a weight of 0.20. Approximate requirement = \$2.3M (Cary Miyashiro moved, Daniel Hamada second, passed unanimously)
		ELL (FY2017-18 and FY2018-19): Committee recommends that if additional resources are provided, funding be prioritized to increase the support for ELL (by increasing weighting factors). Estimated weights = FEP: 0.115, LEP: 0.345, NEP: 0.690), approximate increase of \$10M (In the event the Legislature is unable to fund the full amount (\$12.3) that the ELL and Homeless weights to be adjusted proportionately.) (Cary Miyashiro moved, Bruce Naguwa second, passed unanimously)
		ELL (FY2018-19): Committee recommends that ELL have a fixed weighting factor (at each level) in the WSF, versus calculating the weighting factor based on a fixed <i>dollar amount</i> , as is currently done. (Roxane Martinez moved, Gail Nakaahiki second, passed

		unanimously)
	Amy Kunz	Thanked the Committee for the motions. The dollar amounts will be helpful when presenting to the Legislature.
Discussion on Adequacy	Mitchell Otani	Asked Brian Hallett to share his thoughts on Adequacy.
	Brian Hallett	Is there dollar amount for Adequate funding? We will present Adequacy study to the Board. To keep up with Consumer Price Index from 2005-2016, DOE budget should have increased by 35%.
	Chad Farias	Education is inadequately funded. Satisfied with Richard Seder's study.
	Mitchell Otani	Being that the last study we did was in 2005, it might be something to ponder.
	Cary Miyashiro	For Homeless and ELL, Brian De Lima may need a study to present for funding.
	Mitchell Otani	We accomplished a lot this meeting. Next meeting date to be determined. We're well on our way to making concrete decisions.
Meeting Adjourned		Meeting adjourned at 2:05.