

**Department of Education  
Queen Liliuokalani Building  
Committee on Weights X  
Meeting 6 Minutes  
April 30, 2018**

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

Absent: Bruce Naguwa, Roxane Martinez, Ann Paulino, Glen Miyasato

Guest Speakers: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent  
Amy S. Kunz, Assistant Superintendent & CFO

Staff: Kimberly Chee, Ken Kuraya, Gary Zane, Ryan Shimabuku, Wendy Sekiya

| <b>Topic</b>                                  | <b>Speaker</b>            | <b>Discussion</b>  |
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| Opening 2:30 pm                               | Mitchell Otani<br>(Chair) | Chair welcomed committee members and asked them to introduce themselves.   |
| Public Testimony                              |                           | No Testimonies   |
| Review of Minutes<br>May 5, 2017<br>Meeting 5 | Mitchell Otani            | Bill Taylor - Motion to accept May 5, 2017 minutes.<br>Cary Miyashiro second.<br>Passed Unanimously.   |
|   | Supt. Kishimoto           | <p>Seeks continued assurance that the COW is equitably distributing and maximizing the dollars. Hopes to implement the Empowerment model within the State. Just completed her first legislature session, there are areas of concern.</p> <p>English Language Learners (ELL) – It’s not just about funding but another concern is the lack of defining scope of service for ELL. Legislators this year provided funds for ELL but left it outside of WSF.</p> <p>Special Education funding should follow the child and be tracked. Hope to be able to confidently say that funds are being maximized. Wants a report to track spending of SPED funds and ensure funding is meeting student needs. Required training for ELL, SPED teachers and Educational Assistants should be funded at complex areas and not from school funds.</p> <p>Current WSF Reserve Fund application process is unnecessarily process heavy. Small school WSF funding should have predictability. Wants the Committee to set parameter where school qualifies as a small school and may be reviewed in three year increments. Small school design model needs to be done equitably. Hope to have very specific data points to take to the legislature next year when requesting additional funds.</p> |

| <b>Topic</b> | <b>Speaker</b>  | <b>Discussion</b>  |
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|              | Mitchell Otani  | Schools are allocated only positions for SPED and do not receive any operating funds. There is no flexibility at school level for SPED funds.  |
|              | Supt. Kishimoto | Hopes to provide schools with the flexibility on spending SPED funds. Funding should be allocated to the schools based on need and follow the student.   |
|              | Justin Hughey   | Shared that previous COWs did not spend a lot of time discussing SPED allocation. Felix Consent Decree ordered the Department to allocate adequately. Since the 2008 recession, everyone was reduced about 20% funding which works out to about 350 positions less than before. Previously, funds were sent directly to teachers for IEP, but that was eliminated. |
|              | Cary Miyashiro  | Inquired if the majority of Special Education funding source comes from federal.   |
|              | Chad Farias     | Asked Supt. Kishimoto for clarification. The Committee is statutorily required to create a WSF formula. Are you asking the Committee to also create a formula for SPED federal funds?  |
|              | Supt. Kishimoto | Replied that the first step is to be clear on how the funds will follow the student. Asked the Committee to be open to a process that defines a methodology to distribute SPED funding through a WSF type allocation.  |
|              | Kimberly Chee   | Clarified that SPED funding formula is completely separate from WSF. WSF and SPED funds are currently in different pots.   |
|              | Chad Farias     | Inquired if it is more efficient for this COW to determine SPED allocation or should another group take on this task.  |
|              | Ken Kuraya      | There can be a WSF formula and SPED formula but not combined formula. This committee can take on this task.  |
|              | Daniel Hamada   | Do the 15 complexes allocate SPED funds similarly? Does not believe so. Funds allocated from OCISS should be distributed consistently the same. We need to understand the funding methodology.   |
|              | Justin Hughey   | Previously vs Proportional formula. The previous formula was working.  |
|              | Mitchell Otani  | Previously this body was informed that federal funds are not within the scope of this committee.   |
|              | Ken Kuraya      | The Department cannot comingle and supplant general funds with federal funds.  |
|              | Chad Farias     | To be transparent and max dollars for all our funds, this body can have a similar funding structure process like WSF with federal and SPED funds.  |
|              | Mitchell Otani  | In the past, there was a child count on December 1 to determine the number of positions schools would get for SPED. The Department no longer follow that practice.   |

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|                       | Gail Nakaahiki  | They still have the December 1 child count, but school receive federal funds 17929 based on the previous year student needs. Schools receive general funds 17131 but sporadic.   |
|                       | Kimberly Chee   | 17131 used to provide \$1690 per teacher but it was cut during the great recession. Currently, the program is appropriated funds for positions only. "B" funds are given out to schools if PID 17131 has a balance, then we will give funds out, but there is no legislative appropriation in "B" funds. |
|                       | Ken Kuraya      | For one year, RTTT funds covered the \$1690 after it was removed from the Department's general fund budget.  |
|                       | Justin Hughey   | Thought \$1690 came from FELIX previously.   |
|                       | Wendy Matsuzaki | Inquired if a SPED position was vacant, where does the substitute cost get charged?  |
|                       | Kimberly Chee   | Substitute costs are charged to the program where the position is funded.  |
|                       | Mitchell Otani  | Informed Mr. Hughey that the \$1690 started before FELIX. Asked Ken to go over history of COW  |
|                       | Justin Hughey   | SPED funding can be a whole day discussion. Lets move forward and discuss the WSF Reserve Funding.   |
|                       | Ken Kuraya      | Provided highlights of COW 1 to 9.   |
|                       | Danny Hamada    | Asked Superintendent on her thoughts about history of ELL and how the Committee should handle it.  |
|                       | Supt. Kishimoto | Keep ELL in WSF but adjust the weight. ELL funds should not be centralized because it's too far removed from the students.   |
|                       | Gail Nakaahiki  | Kauai uses a weighted ELL formula. There is PID 42102 to track ELL expenditures in WSF. We could pull that Program ID out of WSF to better track ELL.  |
|                       | Kimberly Chee   | Informed Committee that was specifically why the ELL program ID was included in WSF to better track expenditures.  |
| Break<br>3:34-3:50 pm |                 |  |
|                       | Mitchell Otani  | Let's start with Committee discussion on WSF Reserve and small and remote school. Asked CAS Farias to share their recent visit to Hana School.   |
|                       | Chad Farias     | Hana has difficulty to attract and keep talent when there is no guarantee that there will be re-employment for the next year. Possible solution is to provide base funding for each school level – High, Middle, & Elementary but provide funding for one principal.                                     |
|                       | Mitchell Otani  | If the base funding is adjusted as CAS Farais mentioned, it would give stability and predictability for schools like Hana.   |

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|  | Elton Kinoshita | Lanai, being the largest K-12 combo school, has attempted to figure out if the difficulty is due to being small or remote. For an example, to send a teacher for training on Oahu or Maui, Lanai's cost is high because we have to pay per diem and overnight accommodation. |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | If Lanai received about the same amount as Hana, would you be okay? Lanai received about \$118,000 last year in WSF reserve.   |
|  | Elton Kinoshita | If we did the adjusted base, Lanai would get about 2 teachers and would be able to provide a balanced curriculum.  |
|  | Osa Tui         | Would this adjustment be for 3 years?  |
|  | Chad Farias     | Yes, but future COWs review it and adjust if necessary.  |
|  | AS Kunz         | Not all combo schools need an adjustment to base funding. In fact, not all combo schools receive WSF Reserve fund. The blanket approach wouldn't work.   |
|  | Kimberly Chee   | If we provided the adjustment to combo schools, base funding would divert \$10.2 million. Adding a VP, account clerk, and teacher at each level of combo base funding would divert \$4.3 million.  |
|  | AS Kunz         | But not all combo schools are small or rural. So that would not be equitable. We should not apply it to all combo schools.   |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | Aren't we only looking at the \$2.25 million for WSF Reserve fund?   |
|  | Chad Farias     | How do we identify which schools should receive additional funds and stay within \$1.8 to \$1.9 million to allow some funds to address extraordinary circumstances for Superintendent to decide?   |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | In the past, what was deemed extraordinary circumstances?  |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | In the past, when the military rebuilt housing units, students would move to different areas, the school would see a temporary drop in enrollment. In order to keep the staff when the students return, military impacted schools would apply for WSF Reserve.               |
|  | Kimberly Chee   | Schools that have lost a grade. An example would be a school going from K-6 to K-5; they would apply for assistance and re-districting.  |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | Has there been a hold harmless clause in WSF? Believes the WSF Reserve fund is being used too broadly. Inquired who define which schools are defined as small and remote.  |
|  | Chad Farias     | The previous COWs have determined which schools were considered small, rural, and isolated.  |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | There were 7 schools identified in previous COWs – 5 Molokai schools, Hana and Lanai. This committee is tasked to define which school is small, remote, and isolated.  |
|  | Kimberly Chee   | HB2260 defines what is a small and rural school.   |

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|  | AS Kunz         | That bill has been proposed the past few years, so it is good context of what has been happening at the Legislature.  |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | We have to make the tough decision to fund the small, rural schools - close it, or combine them. We need a very narrow definition for this small pot of funds. I do not want to increase the WSF Reserve Funds amount.              |
|  | Cary Miyashiro  | Proposed adding a weight to whatever the definition is and everyone would share the cost.   |
|  | Gail Nakaahiki  | Maybe we should remove these schools like Niihau and fund them categorical.   |
|  | AS Kunz         | HSDB, Olomana, & Niihau do not get WSF. Nine schools have received WSF Reserve Funds since the beginning.   |
|  | Bill Taylor     | Proposed allowing the Superintendent to decide which schools should receive an additional weight to receive additional funding.   |
|  | Daniel Hamada   | Only look at the definition of remote and isolated schools and do not consider small schools.   |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | Express agreement with Daniel Hamada's statement.   |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | Propose funding the remote, isolated schools – which will bring us back to the original 7 with Molokai schools, Hana, Lanai and adding Kau/Pahala. Creating a smaller WSF Reserve Fund which other schools can apply for.           |
|  | Gary Zane       | Informed that Kau/Pahala have not applied for WSF Reserve Funding consistently.   |
|  | Chad Farias     | Kau has a new principal almost every year and is a Title 1 and CSI school. Funding fluctuates year after year.  |
|  | Daniel Hamada   | Will the total fit within the \$2.25 million WSF Reserve Fund?  |
|  | Kimberly Chee   | Based on FY18-19 requests, this would cost about \$774,000  |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | Wanted to clarify that support for small, rural, isolated schools would be a flat amount not a requested amount. At \$250,000 for each school would total \$1.6 million which would leave 650K in reserve for emergency situations. |
|  | Jan Iwase       | Does Maunaloa need same amount as Hana? Adjust amount based on size of school.  |
|  | Chad Farias     | Muanaloa is a CSI school and funds diminish over time.  |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | The demands for 42 students at Muanaloa School is the same at other schools to provide the same level of support.   |

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|  | Elton Kinoshita | Lanai requested \$180K last time and received \$118K in WSF Reserve Funds. I was grateful that we received the \$118K and it would pay for two teachers, But, Lanai losses a SPED and an Article VI teacher. Losing the teachers had a negative effect because the cost for replacing those teachers was greater than \$118K. |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | Inquire if there is a motion identifying the small and remote schools to be Molokai High, Molokai Middle, Maunloa Elem, Kaunakakai Elem, Kilohana Elem, Lanai High and Elem, Hana High & Elem, and Kau High & Pahala Elem and to receive a flat amount from the WSF Reseve Funds.   |
|  | Cary Miyashiro  | Cary Miyashiro - Motion, Bill Taylor second. Passed unanimously.  |
|  | Kimberly Chee   | Clarify this is for SY 2019-2020  |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | Suggest setting the WSF Reserve Funding for the eight school at a set amount or different amounts based on school size/type.  |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | Suggest a set amount of \$250,000 per school. Wants to ensure Committee acknowledge that this would be a 3- year commitment and will include additional funds for emergencies   |
|  | Gail Nakaahiki  | Confirming funds are coming from the \$2,250,000 WSF Reserve Fund. If amount is set at \$250,000 per school, that'll leave \$250,000 for any emergencies and it will be for 3 year commitment.  |
|  | Wendy Matsuzaki | Inquired what the process will be for the remaining schools that are receiving WSF Reserve Funds to apply for the \$250,000 remaining funds. Expressed concern for small schools.   |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | It would be an emergency fund, so the conditions to apply may change.   |
|  | AS Kunz         | If we remove the 8 small remote schools, the schools that applied every year would be Kohala High, Keolu Elem, and Kaaawa Elem.   |
|  | Kimberly Chee   | Not on the list, but relating to HB 2260 includes Keiolupuu Elem and Waimea High.   |
|  | Jan Iwase       | Has the Department taken a stand on HB 2260? If so, maybe the Legislators will fund those schools separately and will not need to be considered for WSF Reserve Funds.  |
|  | AS Kunz         | Yes, the Department supports the intent of the bill and provided numbers to possibly line item for those schools.   |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | My position would be that the legislature provide additional fund for WSF because line item appropriation would disempower the COW.   |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | Asked what is the Superintendent's view on school closures or consolidation.  |

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|  | Supt. Kishimoto | That is a policy issue that I have brought up with the BOE to take a position. We can't have small schools that are unsustainable and if quality continues to decline. That is a BOE policy that will have to be reviewed.  |
|  | Wendy Matsuzaki | Kaunakakai received \$65K this year; they would receive \$250K and Kilohana received \$108K and now they would receive \$250K.  |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | Restated the motion to distribute the \$2,250,000 WSF Reserve funds to the eight schools identified at a set amount of \$250,000 each and remaining \$250,000 for emergencies as conditions set forth by the Superintendent. This would be for a 3 year commitment.<br>Roll call: Yeas (9) - Miyashiro, Farias, Tui, Otani, Taylor, Nakaahiki, Hamada, Hughley, Kinoshita<br>With Reservation (2) - Matsuzaki and Iwase |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | Weights for special education – right now, we do not have input on how positions are allocated. In the past, Kalani has had three students receiving services on the mainland at a cost of \$400K. Does not want to have funds allocated to Kalani to pay for students that are not on campus. Prefers to continue having state offices handle those kinds of situations.   |
|  | Wendy Matsuzaki | AS Suzanne Mulcahy stated in previous meeting that due to IDEA requirement that Department had to switch to a proportional methodology.   |
|  | Justin Hughey   | The previously weighted staffing formula, the attorney general said that there was more weight to pull out of services.   |
|  | Ken Kuraya      | To clarify what Justin said – Department cannot have a preconceived amount for a pre-handicapping conditions.   |
|  | Mitchell Otani  | May not come under the authority of the COW, but could recommend to the Department or OCISS for more transparency on allocation of SPED funds.  |
|  | Justin Hughey   | Not sure where position and funds are going.  |
|  | Daniel Hamada   | Recommend that school and complex to provide some accountability – student growth. For SPED to come up every year, I think we are not getting the feedback.   |
|  | Justin Hughey   | Looking at the data points of SPED funds, if a principal receives funds but can't hire a SPED teacher, that's a huge part of the data.  |
|  | Supt. Kishimoto | We are getting the data at the Board level but we need to share it. Work needs to happen to bridge the data gap. I believe the COW is the correct committee to look at this. There are too many moving parts so it may need to be picked up at the next COW.  |

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|                              | Mitchell Otani | This sounds like an agenda item in COW XI and include OCISS Assistant Superintendent and Debbie Farmer. This past Legislative session, ELL received \$500K categorical funding for a pilot program. Thanked Superintendent and Committee for attending today and for all their hard work. |
| Meeting Adjourned<br>5:05 pm |                |   |