

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE ON WEIGHTS VIII MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 18, 2013
State Capitol, Room 423**

Members: Suzanne Mulcahy (Chair), Elynne Chung, Paul Daugherty, Linell Dilwith, Stan Hao, Roxane Martinez, Rachelle Matsumura, Cary Miyashiro, Sharlene Morimoto, Fred Murphy, Gail Nakaahiki, Mitchell Otani, Rick Paul, Bill Taylor

Excused: Kimberly Shinno

Staff: Brian Hallett, Gary Zane

Topic	Who	Discussion
Opening – 9:00 a.m.	Suzanne Mulcahy	Chair Mulcahy welcomed committee members and reviewed the day’s agenda.
Approval of July 3, 2013 Minutes	Mitch Otani 2nd: Cary Miyashiro	Approved July 3, 2013 minutes with amendments.
Public Testimony	Allen Awaya	Former Kahuku High and Intermediate school teacher advocated for Gifted and Talented program. Increased GT count from 100 to 400 students at Kahuku and attempted to keep student’s ethnic distribution in GT program same as general population, but was unsuccessful. GT programs help against the departure of students to private schools.
	Sen. Takashi Ohno	Thanks COW for their work. AIR study – is it equitable? How are other jurisdictions handling their weighted student formula? Schools average age is 65 years old. Jefferson Elem is with-in a mile of Waikiki and Ala Wai Elementary. Base funding serves the status quo and does not help growing communities like Mililani. Does not support additional base funding for data coaches and athletic directors. The needs of a small rural school like Hana are different from a small urban school.
Committee Discussions	Mitch Otani	Informed committee that the original COW looked at Edmonton and Seattle WSF. Initially, when WSF was adopted at Edmonton and Seattle, additional funds were

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		provided, but Hawaii remained the same, and actually decreased funding the following years. Edmonton and Seattle no longer utilize a WSF for distribution. When school closures were being discussed, legislatures were waving signs to not close schools in their districts. While principal at Kaneohe, he also tried to increase GT participants for the same reason as mentioned by Allen Awaya. Asked when will older schools get what new schools have - like central A/C? It helps improve the learning environment.
	Rick Paul	Thanked Sen. Ohno for recognizing the plight of Hana school. Non-isolated schools can share resources but Hana is at least 3hr from their nearest school and serves 14 grade levels. There is a difference between isolated and non-isolated small schools. What is the Department's definition of an isolated school?
	Brain Hallett	In previous years the Department had classified the 5 schools on Molokai, Hana High and Elem., and Lanai High and Elem. as isolated schools.
Committee Work	Stan Hao	Suggest that there be an analysis if a school meets a threshold to receive additional funding for an AD in their base allocation.
	Cary Miyashiro	When participating on a school closure committee, the academic impact was greater than the financial impact. Student transferring to a larger school had access to additional enrichment programs – like Chinese classes. Suggest that a weight based on geographical distance to the nearest schools be discussed.
	Fred Murphy	Inquired what is the actual cost to educate a student in Hawaii?
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Requested Members to review and discussed the draft on COW VIII's recommendations to the BOE.
Break 10:33 – 11:00 a.m.		
Committee Work	Suzanne Mulcahy	Committee accepts ESEA Flex recommendation and continuation of Superintendent Reserve to assist isolated,

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		rural, small schools.
		Vote to keep Supt's reserve at current level: Yea – G. Nakahiki, S. Morimoto, R. Martinez, Mitch Otani, B. Taylor.
	Sharlene Morimoto	School's isolation is a school characteristic, not a student characteristic and is going backwards from previous COW's recommendations.
		Vote on increasing base/foundation funding by the cost of one BU5 employee – Unanimous Nay
		Vote on increasing base/foundation funding by the cost of one Athletic Director – Unanimous Nay
	Suzanne Mulcahy	Requested Committee members to review the draft recommendation and note if they wanted to add or delete anything for: base funding, data integrity enrollment, and common core.
		Next meeting on Aug 8, 2013 will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Adjournment – 1:00 p.m.		