

**Department of Education
Queen Liliuokalani Building
Committee on Weights XI
July 19, 2019**

Minutes

Members: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto (Co-Chair), Mitchell Otani (Co-Chair), Kristen Brummel, Erik Burkman, Justin Carmichael, Heather Dansdill, Chad “Keone” Farias, Justin Hughey, Wendy Matsuzaki, Gail Nakaahiki, Noel Richardson, Katina Soares, Osa Tui

Absent: Carl Hinson, Adam Tuifagu, Malaea Wetzel

Staff: Kimberly Chee, Miles Dodo, Brian Hallett, Keli Houston, Ken Kuraya, Wendy Sekiya, Ryan Shimabuku, Shannah Smith, Gary Zane

Topic	Speaker	Discussion
9:03 a.m. Welcome	Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto and Mitchell Otani	Co-Chair Mitchell Otani welcomed committee members.
Approval of June 7, 2019 Minutes		Heather Dansdill motion to accept minutes with amendments. Wendy Matsuzaki second. Passed unanimously.
Public Testimony		Marilyn Simms – Principal, Kilohana Elem. Submitted written testimony on the unique challenges of a small and rural school. Alexandra Obra – Principal, Waiahole Elem. Provided written testimony requesting the Committee on Weights (COW) to consider how Weighted Student Formula (WSF) affects small schools and creates inequity. Jennifer Luke-Payne – Principal, Kaaawa Elem. Provided written testimony requesting the COW to consider supplemental funds for small schools to prevent inequities. Chris Sanita, Principal and Jennifer Everett, Vice Principal, Hana High & Elem. Submitted written testimony in support to increase the weight for neighbor island students. Molokai schools Principals - Marilyn Simms, Daniel Espaniola, Dawn Mains, Joe Yamamoto, and Vice-Principal Shona Pineda. Submitted joint written testimony on geographic exception, weight for neighbor island students, WSF Reserve funds and base funding.
Geographic Exceptions	Keli Houston and Shannah Smith	Reviewed the Department of Education’s (Department) policy, rules and regulations for geographic exception and provided the COW with an interactive dashboard for geographic exceptions during SY 2018-19.

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9:35 a.m.		Chad 'Keone' Farias arrives.
Neighbor Island Weight	Brian Hallett	Continued the discussion on possible adjustment of WSF neighbor island weight. Provided Financial Management Systems expenditure data for Oahu schools in comparison with neighbor island schools.
10:30 a.m. - 10:51 a.m. Break		
Isolated Schools/WSF Reserve	Brian Hallett	Shared with the COW a survey of the eight schools that received WSF reserve funds for SY 2019-20 and how they anticipate this would affect students and employees. Inquired how schools will sustain this if funds are not continued.
School Size	Ken Kuraya and Shannah Smith	Provided the COW with studies on why school districts adopt a weighted student formula – equity, flexibility, and transparency. What is the definition of a small school and at what point does a school's enrollment become insufficient to be viable and not equitable. What is fundamentally needed at a small school? An interactive dashboard was shared with the COW.
11:44 p.m. Working Lunch		Teacher Recruitment and Retention – the COW agreed that this is not a WSF issue but a Department issue.
Drafting of Committee on Weights XI Recommendation	Brian Hallett and Ken Kuraya	The COW recommended the Board of Education seek funding for an adequacy study that takes into account teacher recruitment, school size, location, teacher capacity, and cost of living.
		The COW recommended no action at this time on a proposed 5% threshold hold harmless clause for a school's WSF allocation from Financial Plan's tentative allocation to Official Enrollment Count. A school's WSF allocation would not be reduced if their enrollment decrease was less than 5% to minimize disruption to teacher hiring and planning for the upcoming school year.
		Osa Tui moved to raise the neighbor island weight to 0.008. Justin Hughey second. Passed unanimously.
		The COW unanimously agreed that there will be no action to include Hawaiian Language Immersion Program into WSF at this time.
		The COW recommended that the Department review grant policies if Title I funds can be focused on the elementary school level.
		Special Education Fiscal Allocation Workgroup will continue to work independent of WSF and submit its recommendation directly to the Superintendent.
		The COW recommended that the Department review the geographic exception policy with a focus on conformance to deadlines and its effects on the WSF allocation process and teacher hiring.

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		The COW XI recommended that the next COW review the WSF Reserve Funds process when more data is available after the three-year distribution plan ends.
		Osa Tui moved to re-submit COW X's recommendation to create a 0.20 weight for homeless students and proposed an increase in weights for English Learner students, contingent upon if additional funds are appropriated. Heather Dansdill second. Pass unanimously.
	Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto	Thanked the staff for their support and COW members for their thoughtful voices, time and dedication.
2:29 p.m. Adjournment		

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