LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Educational Workforce Work Group

REFERENCE: SB 1931, SD 2, HD3, CD2, Act 283

ACTION REQUESTED: Status Report on SB 1931, SD 2, HD3, CD2. Requires the Department of Education to include plans to ensure optimal use of technology for administration, data collection, and data sharing related to educational and workforce needs, and plans to ensure that personalized education plans will provide direct link to economic and workforce needs.

DOE REPORT:

Introduction

A workforce working group has been established. This group has met three times to establish workforce development goals and recommendations. The Department of Education’s (DOE) Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Daniel S. Hamada, is the official member of the work group along with two high school principals, Dr. Gail Awakuni (Campbell High School) and Mr. Alvin Nagasako (Kapolei High School). Consensus has yet to be reached on drafts that have been reviewed. Agreement on goals and recommendations is expected at the meeting scheduled for December 6, 2007.

Findings

The identification of activities and development of plans would relate directly to goals and recommendations that will be established by the work group. The creation of a consolidated database linking unemployment insurance data with entities in the educational pipeline has been a priority consideration. Funding for these initiatives has not been released by the Governor; therefore, no other activities have been implemented. Even if funds are released, $50,000 would not be enough to hire a resource teacher or educational specialist to act as a liaison. As a result, full implementation would be difficult because of the heavy workload of existing staff.

Recommendation

Increase funding to the Department of Education for support personnel from $50,000 to $73,537 (resource teacher $47,881; and clerk-typist $25,656).