

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Enrichment Activities for Middle/Intermediate Students

**REFERENCE:** S.C.R. 152, S.D. 1, Requesting the Department of Education to Ensure that All Middle and Intermediate School Students are Provided with Enrichment Activities

**ACTION REQUESTED** That the Department of Education ensure that all middle and intermediate school students are provided with enrichment activities.

### DOE REPORT:

The Board of Education has approved the Middle Level Education Policy which sets the standards for effective classroom, team and school practice; staffing; professional development; and school accountability for the middle grades. There are also Department of Education Administrative Guidelines to support the implementation of the Middle Level Education Policy in the schools.

The policy specifically addresses the issue of enrichment activities by calling for "Exploratory and co-curricular programs which meet the developmental needs of young adolescents." Exploratory programs are usually short-term classes or workshops where students can try out career, recreational, life-skill and artistic activities. Co-curricular programs, formerly known as "extra-curricular," provide opportunities for students to learn to interact with peers in social settings, such as service activities, socials, games and sports.

The implementation of the Middle Level Education Policy at all Intermediate/Middle Level Schools will ensure that the students will be provided enriching, rigorous, and relevant learning opportunities that enhance the whole child. It is likely that in order for our schools to adequately implement the policy, additional support and funding will be needed to provide the necessary staffing levels and professional development for middle grades schools.

Currently, the Department of Education is working collaboratively with the Hawai`i Association of Middle Schools, the Hawai`i State Teachers Association, School Administrators, the Hawaii Government Employees Association (Unit 6), local teacher preparation institutions, particularly the University of Hawai`i at Manoa, as well as parents and community members. Plans will be developed to support inservice and preservice teacher and school administrator professional development as well as to seek additional resources for middle level schools.