

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Act 235 Interagency Educational Accountability Working Group

REFERENCE: HB 1874, HD1, SD2, CD1, Act 235, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2000, established an interagency accountability working group to review agency functions, and pertinent statutes, agency rules, policies, procedures, and practices, to identify those which impede educational system restructuring and reallocation and effective use of educational resources. Further, the working group is to report a summary of its activities in this regard, including an enumeration and recommendation of those agency functions, statutes, agency rules, policies, procedures, and practices that should be suspended to allow the Department of Education to restructure and reallocate its resources to support student achievement.

ACTION REQUESTED: Final Report to the 2002 Legislature and to the Board of Education.

DOE REPORT: Under the direction of former Superintendent of Education, Dr. Paul LeMahieu, the Act 235 working group was suspended based upon the following considerations:

First, key members of the interagency accountability working group indicated at previous meetings that they believed that the Department needed to better define the educational accountability system and policies before other state agencies are asked to identify how their agency's policies and procedures were impeding educational accountability. (See attached Interim Report to 2001 Legislature.)

Second, section 302A-1004, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the educational accountability system include among others, "significant partners to the education process (including, but not limited to, parents, community members, businesses, higher education, media, and political leadership)...". Thus, the Department decided to use the authority provided in statute as an opportunity to accomplish the mandate of Act 235 and address the concerns of the interagency accountability working group members regarding the lack of clarity about the educational accountability system.

Third, key members of the Act 235 interagency accountability working group had not consistently attended previous meetings, and thus the efficacy of ensuring that commitments to this effort made by different representatives was not assured.

During the 2002 legislative session, the Legislature will review and approve an educational accountability system implementation design, as required under section 302A-1004. At this time, the Department is recommending that once the design has been approved by the Legislature, an external review to identify and make recommendations on those agency functions, statutes, agency rules, policies, procedures, and practices that should be suspended to allow the Department of Education to restructure and reallocate its resources to support student achievement be conducted by an appropriate independent entity as determined by the Legislature.

