

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**SUBJECT:** General fund appropriation of \$5,000,000 for restructuring schools under No Child Left Behind

**REFERENCE:** H.B. No. 500, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Report on funds expended by the Department for restructuring schools under No Child Left Behind requirements; further prepare a report that shall include but not limited to evaluations from each educational consultant assigned to each school on progress of No Child Left Behind restructuring.

### DOE REPORT:

#### Introduction

Since the inception of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in Hawaii, progressively more schools have been identified for “restructuring” since SY 2003 – 2004, indicating that the school has not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for five consecutive years. NCLB requirements are applicable across all schools, including those that receive Title I federal funds, as well as non-Title I schools. Although restructuring schools were initially supported with Title I funds, as more schools require intensive additional support to improve academic achievement, it became necessary to request for additional funding to meet the needs of all schools.

#### Findings

The sum of \$5,000,000 for FY 2007–2008 was used to provide financial support for substantive reforms to low performing schools, particularly those schools entering the accountability level of restructuring. In FY 2008, there is a total of 46 schools. By FY 2009, there will be 95 schools that may be restructured. Research documents that schools underperforming for many years require intensive and focused support from content and technical specialists with a track record of success in working with similar schools.

**Attachment I** displays funds allocated to the designated schools. A total of 48 schools, including two charter schools in restructuring, were provided with a proportionate share of the \$5,000,000 for FY 2007-2008, which was added to their Title I allocations and supplemental funding support from Title I school improvement funds, to cover each school’s total restructuring costs.

**Attachment II** displays reports from Complex Area Superintendents (CASs) that include assessments of each school’s progress towards improving student achievement. The schools included in this report are designated as “CAS as the restructuring provider” and CASs have a major role in contracting with a service provider(s), and monitoring restructuring services for each school. The report reflects an assessment of each school’s progress towards improving

student achievement and information on how the funds are being used for specific kinds of services.

**Attachment III** includes the Spring Quarterly Reports (SY 2006-2007) for 36 schools and Fall Quarterly Reports (SY 2007-2008) for 34 schools submitted by comprehensive service providers contracted by the DOE. The three comprehensive service providers are America's Choice, Edison Alliance, and Educational Testing Services (ETS). These reports provide school-by-school performance for Reading and Math for each grade level with accompanying narrative information that explains the extent of progress as well as challenges that are being addressed by the service providers with the schools they work with. The reports clearly show progress for almost all schools, given that none of these schools had made AYP for five or more consecutive years prior to receiving support from these comprehensive service providers. The Spring testing data reflects the fact that eight (8) Edison Alliance schools, four (4) ETS schools, and one (1) America's Choice school made AYP after two years of intensive support from an external provider. Several of the schools were close to making AYP for both Reading and Math, which reflects significant gains. The Fall quarterly reports reflect the continuing efforts provided for the schools that still remain with their respective providers, and additional schools that are now being supported by them. Reports also reflect the number of years that the schools have been working with each of the providers.

**Attachment IV** is a commentary on the validity of the assessment results based on the Spring 2007 Hawaii State Assessment (HSA) in the context of progress achieved by restructured schools working with designated service providers. The results validate the substantive progress that has occurred with the vast majority of the schools.

**Attachment V** is a summary of HSA performance for all schools and indicates the status of Title I, non-Title and charter schools and the number of years each restructuring school has not made AYP. This chart also shows the number of schools currently in all of the NCLB status categories. It provides, at a glance, the number of schools that may fall in the next status category if AYP is not attained in the Spring 2008 testing.

**Attachment VI** is a chart that shows the number of schools projected to be in restructuring in SY 2008-2009, listed by districts.

### **Recommendations**

The Department received \$5 million dollars for restructuring schools for SY 2007-08. These funds were proportionately allocated to 46 Title I schools currently in restructuring (Attachment I). In SY 2008-2009, 94 schools are projected to fall into restructuring status. Included in this total are 67 Title I schools, 23 non-Title I schools, 3 Title I charter schools, and one non-Title I charter school. The 24 **new non-Title I** schools receive no additional Title I funds to support school improvement and will need full support from state funds to implement comprehensive restructuring services. It takes approximately \$350,000 to fully support a restructured school to enable substantive changes. For the 24 **new non-Title I** schools projected to be restructured, this will cost \$8,400,000. The state will allocate \$53,333 to each of the **new non-Title I** restructuring schools from the second biennium of \$5 million (\$1,279,992), and allocate the

remaining \$3,720,008 to the 70 other schools in restructuring. However, in order to support full restructuring costs for the 24 **new non-Title I** restructuring schools (\$350,000 per school), the Department will need an **additional \$7,120,008**. **Attachment VI** provides the names and number of schools, by district, that are projected to be restructured in SY 2008-2009.

The first year of \$5 million granted by the legislature was recently allocated to schools (Fall 2007) and it is premature to determine its impact on student achievement or school performance data. It is anticipated that with substantive changes in leadership development, school culture and instructional practices implemented through restructuring services, each school's capacity to institutionalize best practices will be realized and AYP can be attained. This trend should be reflected in an increase in the number of restructuring schools making AYP for two consecutive years, which will put them in the category of "in good standing."

Finally, the Department requests increased flexibility in the use of any additional funds that can be allocated for restructuring, particularly for personnel services. Schools would like to hire personnel that can be embedded in their schools to be available on an ongoing basis.