

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- SUBJECT:** Relating to the State Budget
- REFERENCE:** HB 0500, HD1, SD1, CD1, Section 73, Act 213 (Session Laws of Hawaii 2007)
- ACTION REQUESTED:** Report on progress and status of the implementation of the electronic Comprehensive Student Support System and need for contracted services.

DOE REPORT:

Introduction

To ensure compliance with State and Federal mandates, sustainability of the Felix Consent Decree, and to provide schools with the data necessary to regularly assess and improve support for students, continued funding is required to develop and sustain the electronic Comprehensive Student Support System (eCSSS).

The initial contract consisting of three (3) phases was completed in school year 2007-2008, with full replacement of three (3) independent systems, Integrated Special Education Database (ISPED), Comprehensive Student Support System (CSSS), and Safe School Information System (SSIS).

The current contract includes further enhancements of the three (3) components to eCSSS. In 2008-2009, Fiscal Management and English Language Learner (ELL) will be additional components to eCSSS. These are in the requirements gathering and system design documentation stages of the development process.

FINDINGS:

eCSSS was designed for schools to gather, analyze, and report information to determine how best to meet the needs of their students. eCSSS continues to be refined to integrate comparable aspects of the three components to make it more user-friendly. Further enhancements to the system are necessary to reflect emerging research-based best practices in student support. Planned enhancements in eCSSS for the general education students include: 1) Early intervention component to document student progress; 2) Redesign of the Action Plan; 3) Updated reports for various programs such as Primary School Adjustment Project (PSAP), Programs and Services for Secondary Alienated/At-Risk Students (PSSAS); counseling; Pregnant and Parenting Teens (PPT) and Parent Community Networking Center (PCNC). An estimated cost of these enhancements is \$442,500. However, the current Department of Education (DOE) budget restrictions imposed by the Governor, have affected the enhancements for 2008-2009, which include the updated reports and features that support the general education students, as stated above. Except for compliance issues, all other improvements have been placed on hold. This is detrimental to the schools that depend

on eCSSS for current student support data on all of their students for decision making in their Academic Financial Plan, and for reporting to the parents and community.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continuous work on eCSSS must be maintained to keep it technologically updated and to reflect the changes in the DOE. These may include DOE Chapter amendments (Chapters 19, 60 and 61), a focus on documenting early interventions for the general education students, and graphs that show student progress based upon assessments. eCSSS must continue to be funded for contracted services to refine and further the system's growth to develop the "Single Story of the Student," and to improve the functionality to address the needs of the users.