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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 8, 2008

MEMO TO: The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Chairperson
Board of Education Committee on Budget and Fiscal Accountability

FROM: *Patricia Hamamoto*
Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

SUBJECT: Spring 2008 Public Input on the Department of Education Budget

I. Introduction

1. Description of Issue or Program

In June 2006, the Board of Education passed the "Department of Education's Budget Public Input Required Policy," Policy No. 1200-1.16. The Department is preparing the budget for the next fiscal biennium, FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11, in effect from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. The public's input was sought to assist the Department in preparing the budget.

2. Background/History

The April 17, 2008 issue of The Superintendent's InfoEXCHANGE included an announcement of the survey. On April 25, 2008, a press release was issued with the same information, to inform the public that input was being sought via a survey available over the DOE's website or by mail, through May 31, 2008.

3. Update/Where are we now?

Web survey input was received from 308 individuals. There were no requests to receive the survey instrument by mail. The survey instrument, with the number of responses for each question, is shown on Attachment A.

II. Board Policies/Rules/Regulations/State or Federal Laws Affected

Policy No. 1200-1.16, Department of Education's Budget Public Input Required Policy, states that "public school parents, students, employees, and the community should be afforded the opportunity to provide input to the use of the moneys received by the department and the budget should have their support."

III. Agencies or Departments of the State of Hawaii Involved

None.

IV. Evaluation or Assessment Completed

Some of the questions allowed multiple responses, such as identification of the responder as a parent, student, school employee, member of a School Community Council or Local School Board, or member of the public. Most of the responders were parents or guardians of children attending a publicly funded school (DOE or charter school), employee of a public school, or member of the public.

Twenty-two percent (22%) of the responses came from the McKinley-Roosevelt (13%) and Kaimuki-Kalani (9%) complex areas. The responses from the other 13 complex areas comprised five to seven percent of the responses. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the respondents checked more than one complex area, resulting in a total of 549 responses to this question.

Respondents were asked to check the top five areas of highest need. The resulting rankings are on the chart below:

Choice Description	Number of Selections	Percent of Selections
1. Availability of programs/courses in areas beyond core subjects such as business, computer technology, communication arts, humanities, music, performing arts, etc.	161	11%
2. Smaller class size	148	10%
3. Classroom supplies, materials, textbooks	133	9%
4. Teacher quality	126	8%
5. Personnel, resources/services to improve student performance	124	8%
6. Reading/comprehension	118	8%
7. Safe school environment	116	8%
8. Math skills/application	104	7%
9. Well-maintained campuses and buildings	91	6%
10. Professional development of teachers and administrators	80	5%
11. Computer resources for students	77	5%
12. Student wellness, including improvements in nutritional content of foods on school campuses, physical education, health education	71	5%
13. Career/job preparation	57	4%
14. Pre-school education	46	3%
15. Well-maintained restrooms	37	2%
16. Online learning	25	2%
TOTAL RESPONSES (308 respondents x 5 responses each = 1540) *Not all respondents made 5 selections	1514*	100%

V. Possible Impact/Implications

1. Educational

The highest priorities of the respondents are those which are likely to have a clear, direct impact on student achievement.

2. Personnel

The high ranking of teacher quality (#4) is aligned with the Department's priority for continuous improvement and compliance with the requirements of Title IIA.

3. Facilities

The relatively low ranking of well-maintained campuses and buildings (#9) and well-maintained restrooms (#15) may indicate the efforts of school administrators, school custodians, and the Office of School Facilities and School Support Services to improve services are achieving positive results.

4. Financial

The top three priorities (programs and courses beyond core subjects; smaller class size; and, classroom supplies, materials and textbooks) are primarily funded through the Weighted Student Formula (WSF). In the current period of fiscal restrictions it is important to protect the WSF from reduction of funding as much as possible.

5. Other

The low ranking of online learning may be indicative of the higher response rate from the Honolulu urban area, which does not need to rely as much on online learning to provide educational opportunities as much as more geographically isolated areas.

VI. Conclusion

1. Further Work

A new survey will be conducted in Spring 2009 to obtain input for the preparation of the Supplemental FY 2010-11 budget.

2. Where do we go from here?

The Department will refer to these rankings when preparing its recommendation for the \$9.3 million Supplemental FY 2008-09 budget restriction imposed by the Governor, and when evaluating the budget requests for FB 2009-2011 prior to recommendation to the Board of Education.

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Attachment

c: Members of the Board of Education
Clayton Fujie, Deputy Superintendent
Stafford Nagatani, Executive Assistant
Assistant Superintendents
Complex Area Superintendents
Directors in the Superintendent's Office
Office of Fiscal Services Directors

ATTACHMENT A

Public Input on the Budget
 Fiscal Biennium 2009-2011
 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011)

1. I am a: (Select all that apply.)
 - 162 Parent, guardian, or other family member of child(ren) attending a publicly funded school
 - 10 Student of a public school
 - 2 Student of a charter school
 - 129 School employee of a public school
 - 6 School employee of a charter school
 - 110 Member of the public
 - 38 Member of a School Community Council
 - 6 Member of a charter school Local School Board
 - 463 Total (selections)
 - 308 Total (surveys)

2. I have the following number of children, or children for whom I am caring, attending public and/or charter schools:
 - Public School:
 - 128 None (0)
 - 78 One (1)
 - 64 Two (2)
 - 19 Three (3)
 - 8 Four (4)
 - 8 Five (5) or more
 - 3 No selection
 - 308 Total

 - Charter School:
 - 218 None (0)
 - 12 One (1)
 - 8 Two (2)
 - 0 Three (3)
 - 0 Four (4)
 - 3 Five (5) or more
 - 67 No selection
 - 308 Total

3. I believe the public school system (grades K-12) is: (Check one of the following.)
 - 48 Adequately funded
 - 228 Under funded
 - 10 Over funded
 - 0 I'm not sure

22 No selection
308 Total

4. I believe charter schools are: (Check one of the following.)

28 Adequately funded
143 Under funded
19 Over funded
0 I'm not sure
118 No selection
308 Total

5. Public funds provided for public school education (grades K-12) are being expended:
(Check one of the following.)

54 Effectively/efficiently
198 Ineffectively/inefficiently
53 I'm not sure
3 No selection
308 Total

6. Public funds provided for charter schools are being expended: (Check one of the following.)

43 Effectively/efficiently
63 Ineffectively/inefficiently
191 I'm not sure
11 No selection
308 Total

7. My responses relate to the following Complex Areas (Check all that apply):

(School complexes are made up of a high school and their feeder schools, elementary and middle/intermediate. School complexes are grouped, by location, into Complex Areas which are administered by a Complex Area Superintendent who reports to the DOE Superintendent.)

36 Farrington-Kaiser
71 McKinley-Roosevelt
49 Kaimuki-Kalani
28 Aiea-Moanalua-Radford
34 Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua
34 Castle-Kahuku
30 Kailua-Kalaheo
38 Campbell-Kapolei-Waianae
30 Nanakuli-Pearl City-Waipahu
29 Kau-Keeau-Pahoa
36 Hilo-Laupahoehoe-Waiakea
33 Honokaa-Kealakehe-Kohala-Konawaena
36 Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui
24 Hana-Lahainaluna-Lanai-Molokai
29 Kapaa-Kauai-Waimea

No selection

549 Total selections

308 Total surveys

8. My most recent visit to a school in a Complex Area indicated above was: (Check one of the following.)

221 Within the past week

24 Within the last month

18 Within the last quarter

13 Within the last year

15 Within the last 2 – 5 years

6 Longer than the last 5 years or more

3 I have never been in a public school

8 No response

308 Total

9. For parents, guardians, and/or other family members of child(ren) attending a publicly funded school:

A. Are you satisfied with your child(ren)'s school overall?

25 Very satisfied

66 Satisfied

68 Somewhat satisfied

38 Not satisfied

111 No response

308 Total

B. Are you satisfied with your child(ren)'s facilities and learning environment?

20 Very satisfied

46 Satisfied

72 Somewhat satisfied

60 Not satisfied

110 No response

308 Total

C. Are you satisfied with your child(ren)'s educational progress and achievement (they are getting good marks on their report card(s))?

43 Very satisfied

67 Satisfied

53 Somewhat satisfied

34 Not satisfied

111 No response

308 Total

D. Are you satisfied that your child(ren) are being prepared for the next level of school (grade, intermediate, or high school), college, and/or the work force?

29 Very satisfied

53 Satisfied

72 Somewhat satisfied

44 Not satisfied

110 No response

308 Total

10. For individuals who are not parents, guardians, and/or other family members of child(ren) attending a publicly funded school:

A. Are you satisfied with your neighborhood public/charter schools overall?

8 Very satisfied

43 Satisfied

49 Somewhat satisfied

51 Not satisfied

157 No response

308 Total

B. Are you satisfied that your neighborhood public/charter schools are preparing students for the next level of school (grade, intermediate, or high school), college, and/or the work force?

8 Very satisfied

39 Satisfied

57 Somewhat satisfied

47 Not satisfied

157 No response

308 Total

11. Please indicate the **top 5 areas** of highest need. (Check no more than 5 of the following.)

161 Availability of programs/courses in areas beyond core subjects such as business, computer technology, communication arts, humanities, music, performing arts, etc.

57 Career/job preparation

133 Classroom supplies, materials, textbooks

77 Computer resources for students

104 Math skills/application

25 Online learning

124 Personnel, resources/services to improve student performance

46 Pre-school education

80 Professional development of teachers and administrators

118 Reading/comprehension

116 Safe school environment

148 Smaller class size

71 Student wellness, including improvements in nutritional content of foods on school

- campuses, physical education, health education
- 126 Teacher Quality
- 91 Well-maintained campuses and buildings
- 37 Well-maintained restrooms

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