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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHERS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that teachers are the  
2 most important component in facilitating student learning. The  
3 national board for professional teaching standards certification  
4 is the highest professional distinction available in education  
5 for teachers. According to the National Board for Professional  
6 Teaching Standards, research shows that students of  
7 board-certified teachers learn more than their peers who are  
8 taught by teachers who are not board certified. Studies have  
9 also found that the positive impact of being taught by a board-  
10 certified teacher is even greater for racially and economically  
11 disadvantaged children.

12           The legislature further finds that, according to the  
13 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, as of  
14 January 2023, there are seven hundred seventy-five national  
15 board certified teachers in Hawaii. The legislature established  
16 a bonus of \$5,000 in 2004 to incentivize teachers to become  
17 board-certified through the National Board for Professional



1 Teaching Standards' certification program. The bonus was  
2 expanded in 2007 to provide an additional \$5,000 for teachers in  
3 restructuring schools under the federal No Child Left Behind  
4 Act. In 2015, the additional \$5,000 bonus was extended to all  
5 teachers who maintain national board certification and who teach  
6 at focus, priority, or superintendent's zone schools; schools  
7 with a high turnover rate; or hard-to-fill schools.

8 The legislature additionally finds that continuing to  
9 incentivize national board certification for teachers requires  
10 adjusting the bonus for board certification to account for  
11 increases in the State's cost of living. Accordingly, the  
12 purpose of this Act is to increase the bonus for all teachers  
13 who achieve and maintain national board certification to \$15,000  
14 and appropriate funds for the bonus increase.

15 SECTION 2. Section 302A-706, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

17 "(a) There is established within the department the  
18 teacher national board certification incentive program to  
19 recognize and support exemplary teaching practice by supporting  
20 public school teachers who have achieved national board  
21 certification under the certification program of the National



1 Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The teacher national  
2 board certification incentive program shall provide:

3 (1) A [~~\$5,000~~] \$15,000 bonus per year for each public  
4 school teacher who maintains current national board  
5 certification;

6 (2) \$1,500 upon completing all components of the  
7 certification program of the National Board for  
8 Professional Teaching Standards;

9 (3) A reimbursement of the remainder of the national board  
10 certification application fee upon achievement of  
11 national board certification; and

12 (4) An additional \$5,000 bonus per year for each public  
13 school teacher who maintains current national board  
14 certification and who teaches at:

15 (A) A school in a focus, priority, or  
16 superintendent's zone, or other similar  
17 designation, as determined by the department;

18 (B) A school with a high turnover rate, as determined  
19 by the department; or

20 (C) A hard-to-fill school, as determined by the  
21 department."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much  
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to fund  
 4 the bonus of \$15,000 for each teacher who achieves and maintains  
 5 a national board certification pursuant to section 302A-706,  
 6 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 8 education for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
 10 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
 11 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
 12 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
 13 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
 14 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
 15 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
 16 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
 17 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
 18 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
 19 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
 20 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by



1 \$                    or                    per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
2 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

3            (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
4                    serve the public interest; and

5            (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
6                    addressed by this Act.

7            SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9            SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;  
10 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



**Report Title:**

Teachers; Certification; Bonus; Appropriation; Expenditure  
Ceiling

**Description:**

Increases the bonus for teachers who achieve and maintain a  
current national board certification from \$5,000 to \$15,000.  
Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

