

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a gap in
2 existing high school curricula surrounding personal finance
3 education. Financial education is a lifelong learning process
4 that empowers individuals to plan for their futures.
5 Historically, the education system has assumed that students
6 learn important financial skills from their families. However,
7 not all students are taught the financial skills they will need
8 to be successful later in life.

9 Presently, seven in ten adults in the State are considered
10 "financially unhealthy". The lack of financial literacy poses a
11 significant barrier for individuals seeking to achieve financial
12 prosperity and stability. Personal financial education is
13 essential to ensure that Hawaii's youth are prepared to manage
14 money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers,
15 heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders,
16 and citizens. It is of the utmost importance to educate
17 Hawaii's youth in economic and financial matters to prepare them



1 for financial independence through the development of fiscal
2 responsibility and financial management skills.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
4 department of education to include the teaching of financial
5 literacy for grades nine through twelve.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to be
8 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

9 "§302A- Financial literacy; curricula plan; public
10 schools. (a) The department shall develop and implement a
11 statewide financial literacy curricula plan for public school
12 students in grades nine through twelve. The department shall
13 review and determine into which courses personal financial
14 literacy shall be integrated.

15 (b) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, instruction
16 shall be provided in financial literacy in all public schools
17 for students in grades nine through twelve. All students in
18 grades nine through twelve shall be required to complete one
19 course in financial literacy and a passing grade in the course
20 shall be required for graduation. The curriculum shall include,
21 at a minimum, standards established by the second edition of the



1 Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics and the 2013
2 Standards for Financial Literacy, as developed by the council
3 for economic education. Curriculum shall include but is not
4 limited to the following:

- 5 (1) Basic budgeting and financial planning;
- 6 (2) Saving, financial investments, and career management;
- 7 (3) Banking and financial services, including online
8 banking services and balancing a checkbook or bank
9 account;
- 10 (4) Federal, state, and local taxes;
- 11 (5) Borrowing money for a home mortgage, automobile, or
12 other large purchase;
- 13 (6) Loans, including interest, credit card debt, predatory
14 lending, and payday loans;
- 15 (7) Rights and responsibilities of renting or buying a
16 home;
- 17 (8) Retirement planning;
- 18 (9) Credit scoring and credit reports;
- 19 (10) Insurance;
- 20 (11) Charitable giving;
- 21 (12) Bankruptcy;



1 (13) Identity theft and fraud;

2 (14) Negative financial consequences of gambling;

3 (15) Planning and paying for postsecondary education;

4 (16) Economic principles; and

5 (17) Other relevant financial literacy issues.

6 (c) The board shall provide teachers with professional
7 development to teach financial literacy courses. The board
8 shall determine a list of approved courses and providers who
9 offer professional development in financial literacy. Teachers
10 shall complete financial literacy professional development
11 before teaching financial literacy courses in public schools.

12 In addition to professional development courses, the board
13 may offer to teachers:

14 (1) A statewide learning community for financial and
15 economic literacy;

16 (2) Summer workshops; and

17 (3) Online videos of experts in the field of financial
18 literacy education.

19 (d) The board may consult with other public agencies and
20 private or nonprofit organizations to:



- 1 (1) Identify online resources for financial and economic
2 literacy education, including interactive activities
3 and curriculum readily available for teachers;
- 4 (2) Coordinate the use of existing financial literacy
5 education resources;
- 6 (3) Develop simple, clear, and consistent messaging to
7 reinforce and utilize existing financial literacy
8 resources; and
- 9 (4) Coordinate the efforts of the department, public
10 agencies, and private or nonprofit organizations to
11 implement methods of appropriate grade-level
12 communication to students, teachers, and parents on
13 financial literacy.
- 14 (e) The board shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter
15 91 for the purposes of integrating financial literacy education
16 into curriculum plans for department schools. The board shall
17 review, and make any necessary adjustments to, the financial
18 literacy curricula plan at least once every three years."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY: *Simon Mercado Ki*



S.B. NO. 2407

Report Title:

BOE; DOE; Financial Literacy; Curriculum; 9-12 Coursework;
Professional Development; Rules

Description:

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, requires the Department of Education to include the teaching of financial literacy in grades nine through twelve. Requires students in grades nine through twelve to complete one course in financial literacy before graduation. Requires the Board of Education to provide professional development to teachers who are teaching financial literacy courses. Requires the Board of Education to adopt administrative rules to implement financial literacy education curriculum and regularly review the financial literacy curricula plan. Authorizes the Board of Education to consult with other state and county agencies, private entities, and nonprofit organizations to disseminate information on financial literacy education resources.

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

