
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Article I, section 1, of the Constitution of
2 the State of Hawaii maintains that all political power of this
3 State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the
4 exercise thereof rests with the people. All government is
5 founded on this authority. The framers of Constitution of the
6 United States also agreed that democracy could only be
7 maintained through an educated and informed citizenry.

8 The legislature finds that while Americans value and
9 cherish the ideals of democracy, many reports and surveys have
10 confirmed that far too many citizens do not understand the basic
11 workings of our government or are cynical and distrustful of our
12 political institutions and processes. Many leading educators
13 and policymakers believe that restoring the civic mission of
14 schools in this nation is the most effective method of
15 positively impacting civic engagement. John Dewey, a leading
16 twentieth century education theorist states that "democracy
17 needs to be reborn in each generation and education is its mid-
18 wife."



1 The legislature also finds that a representative democracy
2 is dependent on its people being informed, prepared, willing,
3 and able to take an active role in self-government and that our
4 democratic processes are based upon citizen participation. The
5 legislature further finds that participation in a representative
6 democracy is a learned behavior. Public education was
7 established on the premise that individuals do not automatically
8 become free, responsible, engaged citizens. While many
9 institutions, such as families, religious congregations,
10 community-based organizations, and voluntary associations help
11 form civic character, public education is the one unifying
12 institution where young people can acquire knowledge, develop
13 dispositions, and practice informed, reasoned participation,
14 working collaboratively toward the founding ideals of freedom,
15 independence, and opportunity.

16 The legislature also finds that Hawaii school children
17 should understand the electoral process and practice other
18 aspects of civic responsibility while in school to be prepared
19 for their roles as citizens in adulthood. In recent decades,
20 increasing numbers of citizens of Hawaii and other Americans
21 have become disengaged from civic and political institutions and



1 electoral activities such as voting. Research shows that the
2 civic attitude of young people reflect these trends.

3 Young people are less likely to vote, less inclined to feel
4 connected to government processes, less willing to enter into
5 political discussions, less interested in running for elected
6 office, and less able to utilize deliberative discourse as a
7 method for resolving issues. The legislature further finds
8 there is a drastic decline in the numbers of youth between the
9 ages of sixteen and eighteen who registered to vote through the
10 young voter registration program. According to the Hawaii
11 office of elections, there were 3,612 young voters in 2006 who
12 registered through the program. In 2006 however, there was a
13 marked decline in participants of more than seventy-five per
14 cent. A record low of eight hundred thirty-eight young voter
15 registrants participated in the young voter registration
16 program.

17 Moreover, the Hawaii superintendent of education stated
18 recently that "as professional educators, we are committed to
19 improving student achievement and preparing students to be
20 responsible citizens and productive members of the work-force in
21 our democratic society. We are dedicated to improving public
22 education and continuing to stress the importance of a three-



1 pronged focus on student achievement, safety and well-being, and
2 civic responsibility."

3 The legislature further finds that we must be deliberate
4 about preparing our youth to be willing and able to take their
5 active role in civil society. Well-designed classroom, school-
6 wide, and complex level programs that foster an understanding of
7 fundamental constitutional principles through methods such as
8 service learning, integration of current events, or simulations
9 of democratic processes and procedures, together with required
10 assessment and tracking of students' civic learning, will
11 enhance educational accountability.

12 The purpose of this Act is to:

13 (1) Establish a grant program in the department of
14 education for school complexes to maintain continuity
15 in civic learning by developing interdisciplinary
16 curriculum, cross-discipline lesson plans, educational
17 materials, and community-based projects for civic
18 learning, including student participation in the young
19 voter registration program;

20 (2) Directly support the development of civic learning in
21 students by appropriating funds for teacher training
22 and social studies resource materials, provided that



1 the school complex presents a comprehensive plan to
2 assess student outcomes and evidence teacher
3 effectiveness, and that the civic learning curriculum
4 is aligned within the school complex.

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

8 **"§302A- Civic responsibility education grant program.**

9 (a) The department shall develop and implement a grant program
10 to encourage civic learning and civic responsibility education
11 in public schools. Expenditures shall be subject to the
12 allotment and expenditure plan required under section 37-34.5.

13 (b) Grants shall be for the purpose of enabling school
14 complexes to establish continuity in civic learning from
15 kindergarten through grade twelve by developing
16 interdisciplinary curriculum, cross-discipline lesson plans,
17 educational materials, and community-based projects for civic
18 learning, provided that all such lessons, materials, and
19 activities are aligned within the school complex.

20 (c) The board shall establish and appoint the members of a
21 grant award panel, which shall consist of at least one
22 representative from each of the following groups:



- 1 (1) Parents;
- 2 (2) Students;
- 3 (3) Teachers;
- 4 (4) School administrators;
- 5 (5) School support staff;
- 6 (6) Businesspersons; and
- 7 (7) The military, whose participation shall be requested.

8 The panel shall include a representative from each departmental
9 school district among its members.

10 The panel shall review proposals and make recommendations
11 to the superintendent on grant awards. Panel members shall
12 serve for a term of two years without compensation, but shall be
13 entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses, including
14 travel expenses, incurred in the discharge of their official
15 duties. A portion of the moneys appropriated for the grants,
16 not to exceed one per cent, shall be used to offset the expenses
17 incurred by the review panel.

18 (d) The panel shall develop a process for submitting
19 proposals.

20 (e) All proposals for civic responsibility education
21 grants shall include:



- 1 (1) A clear statement of how the proposed complex level
2 grant will achieve the outcomes of:
- 3 (A) Identifying indicators of civic learning and
4 responsibility;
- 5 (B) Student learning of the content, dispositions,
6 and skills inherent in civic responsibility,
7 including increased student participation in the
8 young voter registration program;
- 9 (C) Increased student participation in service
10 learning and community-based projects; and
- 11 (D) Interdisciplinary curriculum and cross-discipline
12 lesson plans that are aligned within the complex;
- 13 (2) A method of evaluation and assessment to determine the
14 extent to which the grant enabled the complex to:
- 15 (A) Increase student civic learning; and
- 16 (B) Determine teacher efficacy in the civic learning
17 of students;
- 18 (3) A detailed budget and expenditure plan, which shall
19 include any commitment of existing funds under the
20 school or schools' allotment, including service
21 learning grants, toward the proposed program; and
- 22 (4) Other criteria required by the panel.



1 (f) The panel shall assist the superintendent in the
2 evaluation of all grant programs under this section on a
3 continuing basis. If an approved program fails to meet the
4 requirements of its proposal, the panel shall recommend to the
5 superintendent that funding for the grant shall be terminated.

6 (g) The superintendent shall submit a report to the
7 legislature on the operations of the review panel at least
8 twenty days before the convening of each regular session."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
12 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2008-2009, for the civic responsibility education grant
14 program.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of education for the purposes of this section.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
20 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2008-2009, for teacher training and the purchase of social
22 studies resource materials for complexes and schools; provided



1 that the school complex provides a plan for teacher training and
 2 a list of civic learning resource materials for students to
 3 learn and practice civic responsibility, including student
 4 participation in the young voter registration program; and
 5 further provided that the civic learning curriculum is aligned
 6 within the school complex.

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

9 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Education; Civic Responsibility; Civic Learning; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a grant program in the department of education to develop curriculum, cross-discipline lesson plans, educational materials, and community-based projects to promote civic responsibility. Appropriates funds for program operations, teacher training, and social studies resource materials.

