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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Article XV, section 4, of the Hawaii State  
2 Constitution, provides that the State of Hawaii has two official  
3 languages, Hawaiian and English. Article X, section 4, states  
4 that the State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture,  
5 history, and language, and that the State shall provide for a  
6 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and  
7 history in the public schools. There is a Hawaiian language  
8 public education system, as well as a Hawaiian language college,  
9 to provide for education through the use of the Hawaiian  
10 language.

11           However, the legislature believes that the study and  
12 integration of the Hawaiian culture and language by educators  
13 and administrators can offer insight and understanding of the  
14 cultural heritage, learning preferences, and traditions of the  
15 native Hawaiian culture to youth attending public schools in  
16 Hawaii. The legislature further believes that the learning of  
17 Hawaiian culture and language must be deliberately integrated



1 throughout the public school system and must be further  
2 encouraged.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Increase the base of public school educators and  
5 administrators who are aware, knowledgeable,  
6 compassionate, and responsive to the cultural heritage  
7 and foundation, learning preferences, and traditions  
8 of the native Hawaiian culture; and

9 (2) Promote, encourage, and integrate the teaching of  
10 Hawaiian culture and language in public schools,  
11 by requiring all new teachers, principals, and vice-principals  
12 to satisfactorily complete at least one Hawaiian language  
13 instruction course as part of their licensing and certification  
14 requirements.

15 SECTION 2. Section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended to read as follows:

17 **"§302A-605 Principals and vice-principals. (a)**

18 Principals shall meet the department's certification  
19 requirements and shall have not less than five years of  
20 appropriate school-level experience of which at least three  
21 years shall have been as a teacher.



1 (b) Vice-principals shall meet the department's  
2 certification requirements and shall have appropriate school-  
3 level experience as determined by the department.

4 (c) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, all new  
5 principals and vice-principals shall have satisfactorily  
6 completed at least one Hawaiian culture and language course as  
7 part of their certification requirements.

8 [e] (d) On a case-by-case basis, the department may waive  
9 the certification requirements and school-level experience for  
10 vice-principal candidates with appropriate administrative  
11 experience. The department shall establish criteria and reasons  
12 for waivers pursuant to chapter 91."

13 SECTION 3. Section 302A-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

15 "(c) The board shall adopt policies, exempt from chapters  
16 91 and 92, to initiate the following:

17 (1) Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, require all  
18 new teachers to satisfactorily complete at least one  
19 course in Hawaiian culture and language as part of the  
20 teacher licensing standards;

21 [+1+] (2) Develop criteria allowing more individuals with  
22 trade or industry experience to teach in vocational,



1 technical, and career pathway programs, and criteria  
2 for the issuance of permits allowing qualified  
3 individuals to teach when recommended by the  
4 superintendent. The department shall be responsible  
5 for the review and acceptance of the relevant  
6 licenses, certificates, or other qualifications  
7 related to an individual's vocational, technical, or  
8 career pathway education-related experience that the  
9 department deems necessary for a permit. The  
10 department shall have the authority to waive the  
11 requirement of a bachelor's degree to teach in a  
12 vocation, technical, or career pathway education  
13 program;

14 [~~(2)~~] (3) Develop a plan to accept teachers from any state  
15 as long as they have completed state-approved teacher  
16 education programs and pass relevant Hawaii teacher  
17 examinations or their equivalent;

18 [~~(3)~~] (4) Clarify the requirements, on a state-by-state  
19 basis, for out-of-state licensed teachers to obtain a  
20 license in Hawaii;

21 [~~(4)~~] (5) Develop a plan to facilitate licensing for those  
22 who intend to teach in Hawaii immersion programs, the



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1 island of Niihau, or any other extraordinary situation  
 2 as defined by the superintendent or the  
 3 superintendent's designee; and

4 [~~5~~] (6) Pursue full teacher license reciprocity with the  
 5 mid-Atlantic states, California, Colorado, Illinois,  
 6 Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Washington."

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Education; Teacher Certification; Hawaiian Language

**Description:**

Requires all public school principals, vice-principals, and Department of Education teachers to satisfactorily complete at least one course in Hawaiian culture and language as part of their certification requirements.

