
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Today's students are living in an increasingly
2 technology-driven world. Statistics indicate that ninety per
3 cent of children and adolescents from ages five to seventeen use
4 computers. About fifty-nine per cent of them use the Internet.

5 To continue captivating the minds of our youth, public
6 education must adapt and function within the context of their
7 changing world by applying technology.

8 Access to knowledge and information has expanded
9 exponentially due to the Internet. Such powerful technology
10 should be taken advantage of to enhance the learning experiences
11 of students.

12 Online learning opens up many opportunities for students,
13 and more and more educators and policymakers across the nation
14 are recognizing the benefits of education unconstrained by time
15 and place. As of September 2006, thirty-eight states either had
16 policies in place for online education, offered a state-led
17 online learning program, or both.



1 The purpose of this Act is to create an online learning
2 task force to develop a systematic plan to expand opportunities
3 for online learning, to enhance the learning experiences of
4 students across the state.

5 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an online learning
6 task force to be attached to the department of education for
7 administrative purposes. The task force shall develop a
8 systematic plan to expand opportunities for online learning, to
9 enhance the learning experiences of students across the state.
10 The plan shall include proposals for regulatory policies
11 appropriate to online learning programs.

12 (b) The members of the online learning task force shall
13 include but not be limited to:

14 (1) The assistant superintendent of the department of
15 education office of curriculum, instruction, and
16 student support or the assistant superintendent's
17 designee;

18 (2) The assistant superintendent of the department of
19 education office of information and technology
20 services or the assistant superintendent's designee;
21 and

22 (3) A representative from the Myron B. Thompson Academy.



1 (c) Members of the online learning task force shall serve
2 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
3 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
4 their duties.

5 (d) The online learning task force shall be exempt from
6 chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes; provided that the task
7 force shall make a good faith effort to make its proceedings and
8 work products accessible and available to the general public in
9 a manner consistent with the intent of chapter 92, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes.

11 (e) The online learning task force shall submit a report
12 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
14 to the convening of the regular session of 2008.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to support
18 the operations of the online learning task force.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 education for the purposes of this Act and shall not be subject
21 to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



H.B. NO. 598

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2007



Report Title:

Education; Online Learning; Task Force

Description:

Creates an online learning task force to develop a systematic plan to expand opportunities for online learning, to enhance the learning experiences of students across the state.

