

JAN 20 2017

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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. The legislature finds that there is a  
2 disconnect between the needs and expectations of today's  
3 employers and the current skills of the State's local workforce.  
4 Industries in the State require employees with skills in coding,  
5 computer science, engineering, foreign language, and other  
6 technology-based jobs. As the unemployment rate declines, it  
7 has made it more difficult for employers to find workers, but  
8 employers have often found it more difficult than normal to fill  
9 these positions, given the current low unemployment rate. The  
10 explanation given by business and education groups is that too  
11 few individuals have the right skills for the right openings.  
12 The way to close this skills gap, it is said, is to improve job  
13 training and more closely align education to employment.

14           Closing the skills gap is especially critical in the  
15 manufacturing industry. Over the next decade, nearly 3,500,000  
16 manufacturing jobs will likely need to be filled throughout the  
17 country, yet the skills gap is expected to result in 2,000,000



1 of these jobs remaining unfilled. There are numerous  
2 contributing factors to this widening gap, including looming  
3 baby boomer retirements and economic expansion. However, other  
4 contributing factors include loss of embedded knowledge due to  
5 movement of experienced workers; a perceived preference among  
6 younger generations for industries other than manufacturing;  
7 lack of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)  
8 skills among workers; and a gradual decline of technical  
9 education programs in public high schools.

10 The legislature finds that closing the skills gap for STEM  
11 jobs is extremely important, as STEM jobs are expected to grow  
12 1.7 times faster than non-STEM jobs in the coming years.  
13 However, Honolulu has not been able to keep up with the rising  
14 demand for STEM professionals. According to a 2017 analysis of  
15 the best metropolitan areas for STEM professionals, Honolulu  
16 ranked ninety-five out of one hundred.

17 Hawaii has also experienced difficulties with brain drain,  
18 the constant challenge encountered in the public and private  
19 sector of retaining Hawaii's highly-skilled or highly-  
20 intelligent workers or encouraging the return of those workers  
21 who left the State for school or work. A recent United States



1 Census report found that 10,000 more people moved out of Hawaii  
2 to other states than moved in from other states - the biggest  
3 loss since 2010.

4 The legislature additionally finds that Hawaii needs to  
5 develop programs and initiatives to ensure that the State has an  
6 engaged supply of workers with the skills required to meet today  
7 and tomorrow's workforce requirement.

8 Finally, the legislature supports the greater use of sector  
9 partnerships that develop and implement a clear pipeline toward  
10 careers for the State's K-12 students and concludes that Hawaii  
11 should lead the way in adding the "learn" to the concept of  
12 live, learn, work, play.

13 The purpose of this Act is to provide K-12 students with  
14 more career options by requesting the department of education,  
15 in collaboration and consultation with the department of  
16 business, economic development, and tourism; the department of  
17 labor and industrial relations; and the University of Hawaii, to  
18 develop a K-12 curriculum to career pipeline initiative that  
19 will enable these students to enter the State's workforce upon  
20 graduation from high school.



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

4 "§302A- K-12 curriculum to career pipeline initiative.

5 (a) There shall be created in the department a K-12 curriculum  
6 to career pipeline initiative.

7 (b) The purpose of the initiative shall be to enable a  
8 student to pursue training and education throughout the  
9 student's time at a department school complex, so that upon  
10 graduation, the student is prepared with the appropriate skills;  
11 certifications; licensing; or college credit, through a dual  
12 credit program, to enable the student to enter the State's  
13 workforce.

14 (c) The department shall collaborate and consult with the  
15 department of business, economic development, and tourism; the  
16 department of labor and industrial relations; and the University  
17 of Hawaii to implement the curriculum to career pipeline  
18 initiative.

19 (d) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
20 91 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*

*Michelle A. Tedani*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*Clarence K. ...*

*[Signature]*



**Report Title:**

Education; Workforce Development; K-12 Curriculum to Career Pipeline Initiative

**Description:**

Requests the department of education, in collaboration and consultation with the department of business, economic development, and tourism; the department of labor and industrial relations; and the University of Hawaii, to develop a K-12 curriculum to career pipeline initiative that will ensure the State's public school students are adequately trained and prepared to enter the State's workforce upon graduation from high school.

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

