
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 a thorough education
2 must incorporate opportunities for children to think critically
3 and question received assumptions. By nurturing children's
4 innate sense of wonder and curiosity, and initiating open-ended
5 discussion and inquiry, educators can foster students to engage
6 in the type of reflective and critical thinking that will allow
7 them to flourish as responsible citizens in a complex and
8 changing world.

9 In addition, the legislature finds that bullying,
10 cyberbullying, peer aggression, violent behavior, and harassment
11 pose a serious concern for our children and that the teaching of
12 critical thinking, conflict resolution, compassion, empathy,
13 social-emotional learning, and collaboration is addressed by the
14 Philosophy for Children program, or P4C, at the University of
15 Hawaii's Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education,
16 which has been shown to lead to the prevention of peer



1 aggression in and out of school in those schools in which the
2 program has been incorporated.

3 The legislature further finds that the P4C program offers a
4 workable model to introduce philosophical inquiry into Hawaii's
5 public schools by providing teachers with the tools necessary to
6 help their students develop complex problem solving, critical
7 thinking skills, and sound judgment and reasoning. This program
8 received legislative funding in the 1980s, which enabled
9 teachers of the department of education to train in the program
10 at the University of Hawaii and then share their skills with
11 other teachers in the school and complex.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to support the
13 integration of philosophical education in public schools by
14 making appropriations to fund the P4C program and to allow a
15 small number of teachers of the department of education the time
16 to train in the program.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



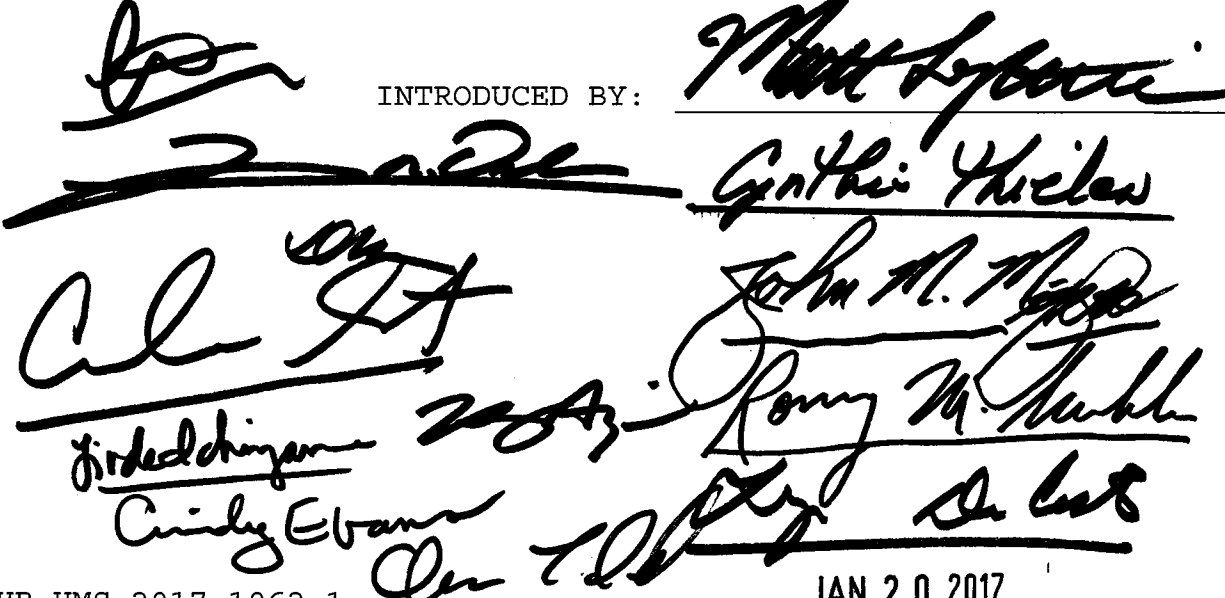
1 2018-2019 for the P4C program of the University of Hawaii Uehiro
2 Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
4 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2018-2019 to allow teachers of the department of education to
10 train with the P4C program of the University of Hawaii Uehiro
11 Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mark Lybarger
~~_____~~ Genthi Yulew
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H.B. NO. 580

Report Title:

Philosophy Education; Public Schools; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds for the P4C Program of the University of Hawaii Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education and for teachers of the Department of Education to train with the P4C Program.

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