
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 high school
2 graduates and individuals who elect to take the general
3 educational development test should have a basic understanding
4 of United States civics and history so that they can become
5 actively engaged citizens.

6 The purpose of this Act is to promote civics education by
7 authorizing the department of education to:

- 8 (1) Establish and maintain a civics education course based
9 on core elements in the test administered to
10 individuals attempting to become naturalized citizens;
- 11 (2) Require all students entering the ninth grade in the
12 2020-2021 school year and any school year thereafter
13 to complete and pass the civics education course to
14 qualify for graduation; and
- 15 (3) Require all individuals taking the general educational
16 development test on or after January 1, 2019, to first
17 achieve a satisfactory score on the civics portion of



1 the test administered to individuals attempting to
2 become naturalized citizens, or a substantially
3 similar test.

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

7 "§302A- Civics education course; graduation. (a) The
8 department may:

9 (1) Establish and maintain a civics education course to be
10 taught at each public high school in the State; and

11 (2) Require all students entering the ninth grade in the
12 2020-2021 school year and any school year thereafter
13 to complete and pass the civics education course to
14 qualify for graduation.

15 (b) The content of a course established pursuant to this
16 section shall include core elements that are tested in the
17 civics portion of the naturalization test administered by the
18 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to applicants
19 for United States citizenship.

20 §302A- General educational development test; civics
21 knowledge prerequisite. The department may establish a civics



1 knowledge prerequisite that requires all individuals who take
 2 the general educational development test on or after January 1,
 3 2019, to provide verification to the department, before taking
 4 the test, that they have achieved at least sixty per cent of the
 5 maximum score for the civics portion of the naturalization test
 6 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
 7 Services to applicants for United States citizenship, or a
 8 substantially similar test."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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H.B. NO. 1760

Report Title:

Civics Education; DOE

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Education to establish civics knowledge requirements for students attempting to graduate and individuals taking the general educational development test.

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