
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that despite having a
2 high school graduation rate of eighty-one per cent, only fifty-
3 six per cent of Hawaii's public school graduates continued on to
4 post-secondary education in 2015. The legislature further finds
5 that high school students in Hawaii would benefit from precisely
6 aligning curriculum to workforce readiness which depends upon
7 close collaboration between the public school system, a
8 community college, and one or more industry employer near the
9 school complex to ensure they receive the industry-based skills
10 and certification required for employment post-graduation and to
11 live, learn, work, and play in the community.

12 The legislature additionally finds that collaboration
13 between educators and industry allows students to graduate from
14 high school with a high school diploma and an industry-
15 recognized associate's degree. Students may also earn pre-
16 apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized
17 certificates in addition to an associate's degree. The



1 legislature also finds that similar models recently established
2 in Connecticut, Illinois, and New York are showing promise in
3 graduating more high school students with career-ready skills to
4 meet an industry's workforce needs.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish a workforce
6 readiness program within the department of education.

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

10 "§302A- Workforce readiness program; establishment. (a)
11 There is established within the department a workforce readiness
12 program.

13 (b) The department shall designate schools to participate
14 in the program.

15 (c) Workforce readiness program schools shall:

16 (1) Include grades nine through twelve;

17 (2) Be schools with qualified courses under the dual
18 credit program established pursuant to section 302A-
19 401;

20 (3) Enable students to graduate with a high school diploma
21 and an industry-recognized associate's degree;



1 (4) Give students opportunities to earn pre-apprenticeship
2 certificates and other industry-recognized
3 certificates in addition to an associate's degree; and

4 (5) Integrate high school courses, college courses, and
5 certificate programs that are informed by current and
6 projected industry standards and focused on science,
7 technology, engineering, and mathematics with
8 mentoring, job shadowing, internships, pre-
9 apprenticeship training, and other workplace education
10 experiences throughout grades nine through twelve.

11 (d) The department shall coordinate with the University of
12 Hawaii and enter into contracts with industry employers near the
13 school complex as required to develop and implement the
14 workforce readiness program.

15 (e) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
16 chapter 91 to carry out the purposes of this section."

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§304A- Workforce readiness program; coordination. The
21 University of Hawaii shall coordinate with the department of



1 education to develop and implement the workforce readiness
2 program established under section 302A- ."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2018-2019 for the purposes of this Act, including the
8 hiring of full-time equivalent (.00 FTE) positions.

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

11 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
14 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Workforce Readiness School Program; Department of Education;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a workforce readiness program within the department of education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate's degree. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program. Takes effect on July 1, 2050. (SD1)

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