
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 aligning
6 educational curriculum to workforce readiness. This alignment
7 depends upon close collaboration between the public school
8 system, a community college, and one or more industry employers
9 near a school complex. A workforce readiness program would
10 ensure that students receive the industry-based skills and
11 certification required for employment after graduation.

12 The legislature additionally finds that collaboration
13 between educators and industry employers will enable students to
14 graduate from high school with a 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 their associate's degree. The



1 legislature also finds that similar educational models in
2 Connecticut, Illinois, and New York are showing promise in
3 graduating more high school students with career-ready skills
4 that meet 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.

11 (a) There is established within the department a workforce
12 readiness 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) Provide opportunities for students to earn pre-
18 apprenticeship certificates and other industry-
19 recognized certificates that assess and document
20 student readiness for a wide range of jobs in addition
21 to an associate's degree; and



1 (3) Integrate high school courses and certificate or
 2 license programs that are based on current and
 3 projected industry standards and focused on science,
 4 technology, engineering, and mathematics with
 5 mentoring, job shadowing, internships, pre-
 6 apprenticeship training, and other workplace education
 7 experiences.

8 (d) The department shall coordinate with the department of
 9 labor and industrial relations, as needed, and enter into
 10 contracts with industry employers located near workforce
 11 readiness program schools, as appropriate, to develop and
 12 implement the workforce readiness program.

13 (e) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
 14 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section."

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and
 18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 19 year 2020-2021 for the purposes of this Act, including the
 20 hiring of full-time equivalent (.00 FTE) positions.



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

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
5 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

6



Report Title:

Workforce Readiness School Program; DOE; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program. (SD1)

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