
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 education is the
2 bedrock of a healthy democracy. To advance the fundamental
3 democratic principles of equality, liberty, and justice for all,
4 a quality school system must deliver instruction that is
5 historically and scientifically accurate and free from
6 discrimination.

7 The legislature further finds that the department of
8 education used the Acellus Learning Accelerator to facilitate
9 virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. However,
10 teachers, parents, and community members found that the Acellus
11 Learning Accelerator curriculum contains content that engages in
12 racial, sexual, gender-based, and religious discrimination.
13 Teachers and parents also expressed concerns that certain
14 content provided by Acellus Learning Accelerator is historically
15 prejudicial and scientifically inaccurate. In October 2020,
16 these concerns prompted the board of education to direct the



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1 department of education to phase out the Acellus Learning
2 Accelerator curriculum by the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

3 The legislature additionally finds that social justice
4 issues are a growing concern for Hawaii and the rest of the
5 United States. In 2020, large protests were coordinated in
6 Hawaii and throughout the nation to highlight systemic racism,
7 economic inequality, and police abuse faced by minority
8 communities. These demonstrations highlighted the urgency of
9 establishing structural reforms to address socioeconomic
10 inequality. The legislature therefore finds that to prepare
11 students to participate in the development of a more equal
12 society, it is important to create educational content that is
13 culturally relevant, nondiscriminatory, and inclusive of the
14 historical injustices endured by marginalized populations.

15 The purpose of this Act is to advance equality in Hawaii's
16 public education system by requiring:

17 (1) The board of education to adopt performance standards
18 that are culturally relevant, historically and
19 scientifically accurate, and nondiscriminatory;

20 (2) A standards-based curriculum and educational materials
21 that are nondiscriminatory with regard to race,



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1 ethnicity, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual
2 orientation, color, religion, ancestry, or disability;
3 and

4 (3) School complexes to develop, to the greatest extent
5 possible, a standards-based curriculum that includes
6 content on the injustice endured by the indigenous
7 people of Hawaii and other historically
8 underrepresented populations.

9 SECTION 2. Section 302A-201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "**§302A-201 Statewide performance standards.** The board
12 shall establish statewide performance standards and the means to
13 assess the standards based upon the recommendations in the final
14 report of the performance standards commission established
15 pursuant to Act 334, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991; provided that
16 the board may review and modify the performance standards, as
17 the board deems necessary, to reflect the needs of public school
18 students and educational goals adopted by the board[-]; provided
19 further that the performance standards adopted by the board
20 shall be culturally relevant, historically and scientifically
21 accurate, and nondiscriminatory."



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1 SECTION 3. Section 302A-321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[~~f~~]§302A-321[~~}]~~ Standards-based curriculum. (a) When
4 developing a standards-based curriculum and implementing it in a
5 school or complex, at the minimum, the curriculum and any
6 related educational materials shall:

- 7 (1) Be specific in its standards-based scope and sequence
8 over a school year for each grade level and course;
- 9 (2) Be consistent in course content;
- 10 (3) Be aligned across all grade levels;
- 11 (4) Specifically address the state content and performance
12 standards and related benchmark maps; [~~and~~]
- 13 (5) Be implemented in all appropriate classrooms in the
14 school or complex[~~}]~~;
- 15 (6) Be historically and scientifically accurate; and
- 16 (7) Be nondiscriminatory with regard to race, ethnicity,
17 sex, gender identity or expression, sexual
18 orientation, color, religion, ancestry, or disability.

19 (b) School complexes may choose to develop an articulated
20 and aligned K-12 standards-based curriculum in one or more of
21 the following core content areas:



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- 1 (1) Language arts;
- 2 (2) Mathematics;
- 3 (3) Science; and
- 4 (4) Social studies.
- 5 (c) School complexes shall provide professional
- 6 development.
- 7 (d) School complexes that develop a standards-based
- 8 curriculum shall use standards-based formative assessment tools
- 9 to monitor student progress, not less than on a quarterly basis
- 10 throughout the school year.
- 11 (e) School complexes shall develop rigorous classroom-
- 12 based performance assessments.
- 13 (f) School complexes may implement software programs at
- 14 the school level to help to align school course material with
- 15 Hawaii content and performance and federal educational
- 16 standards.
- 17 (g) To the greatest extent possible, school complexes
- 18 shall develop a standards-based curriculum that includes content
- 19 on the historical injustice, cultural subjugation, and
- 20 discrimination faced by the indigenous people of Hawaii and
- 21 other historically underrepresented populations."



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1 SECTION 4. The department shall submit a report to the
2 legislature regarding the implementation of this Act no later
3 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions
4 of 2022 and 2023.

5 The report shall include:

- 6 (1) Efforts made to improve the cultural relevance,
7 historical and scientific accuracy, inclusivity, and
8 nondiscrimination of Hawaii's performance standards
9 and standards-based curricula;
- 10 (2) Policies adopted to assist teachers, parents, and
11 community members in reporting inaccurate or
12 discriminatory educational content;
- 13 (3) Opportunities for increasing teacher engagement in the
14 development of culturally relevant, historically and
15 scientifically accurate, and nondiscriminatory
16 performance standards and standards-based curricula;
17 and
- 18 (4) Any proposed legislation.

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



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1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 20 2021



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Report Title:

Statewide Performance Standards; Standards-Based Curriculum;
Nondiscrimination; Education Equality

Description:

Requires the board of education to develop statewide performance standards to be culturally relevant, historically and scientifically accurate, and nondiscriminatory. Requires a standards-based curriculum and its related educational materials to be nondiscriminatory. Establishes certain requirements for school complexes when developing standards-based curricula. Requires reports to the legislature.

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

