

JAN 22 2021

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# 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, according to the  
2 National Center for Education Statistics, approximately 3.7  
3 million students were expected to graduate high school during  
4 the 2019-2020 school year. According to the Georgetown  
5 University Center on Education and the Workforce, whether high  
6 school students enter the workforce immediately or pursue a  
7 postsecondary education, they will all eventually face a job  
8 market where an estimated sixty-five per cent of positions  
9 demand postsecondary credentials. States striving to increase  
10 the career readiness of their students can ensure that career  
11 and technical education offerings will lead to credentials most  
12 valued in each unique workforce. An industry-recognized  
13 certification conveys a student's career readiness because the  
14 credential validates the competencies and skills required for  
15 success in a given occupation or industry. According to the  
16 National Skills Coalition, full-time employees having an  
17 industry certification earn more than their counterparts having



1 only a high school diploma and, in some cases, the salaries of  
2 non-degree credential employees were found to be similar to  
3 workers having college degrees.

4 The legislature further finds that the State has critical  
5 shortages of qualified local workers in sectors such as health,  
6 education, air travel, and technology. Due to the needs of the  
7 State's economy, Hawaii's public high schools should  
8 strategically prepare students for the workforce by encouraging  
9 industry certification in "high value" occupations, including  
10 jobs that have a high demand for competent and skilled  
11 employees, high potential for growth, and high wages.

12 The purpose of this Act is to incentivize public high  
13 schools to encourage students to obtain industry certification  
14 in high value occupations by requiring the department of  
15 education to establish high value employment criteria for  
16 industry certification awards to public high schools and to  
17 appropriate funds to the department to carry out this purpose.

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



1           "§302A-           Industry certification; awards. (a) The  
2 department shall coordinate with the University of Hawaii system  
3 and other relevant cross-sector partners, such as the P-3  
4 Initiative and P-20 Partnerships for Education, to develop high  
5 value employment criteria for making industry certification  
6 awards to public high schools. High value employment criteria  
7 shall include occupations with high need of additional competent  
8 and skilled employees, high growth potential, and high wages.  
9 High value employment criteria may also include pre-existing  
10 cross-sector initiatives to achieve employment in certain  
11 fields. In addition, the department shall consult with  
12 employers in the State to obtain critical input about  
13 competencies and skills that students need to attain in order to  
14 succeed in high value employment occupations.

15           (b) The department shall request, and the department of  
16 labor and industrial relations shall provide, an annual list of  
17 occupations that meet the high value employment criteria  
18 developed pursuant to subsection (a) and in which an industry-  
19 recognized certification is required or will materially enhance  
20 a job applicant's opportunities for employment or compensation  
21 in that occupation.

1        (c) The department shall make the current annual list of  
2 occupations received from the department of labor and industrial  
3 relations available to all public high schools and on the  
4 department's website.

5        (d) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
6 legislature and the requirements of subsection (e), the  
7 department shall pay each eligible public high school an  
8 industry certification award, calculated as follows:

9        (1) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
10 certification for an occupation meeting the high value  
11 employment criteria;

12        (2) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
13 certification that is recognized by any public  
14 institution of higher learning in Hawaii as a basis  
15 for academic credit in that institution; or

16        (3) \$100 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
17 certification that does not meet the criteria of  
18 paragraph (1) or (2) but fulfills regional demands  
19 identified by the most recent Hawaii Statewide  
20 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy report.



1        (e) For a public high school to be eligible to receive  
2 payment of industry certification awards:

3        (1) The high school shall have a recognized career and  
4 technical education program with an advisory council;

5        (2) The student's industry certification selection shall:

6        (A) Meet the high value employment criteria, if an  
7 award is made pursuant to subsection (d)(1); and

8        (B) Reflect regional labor market data on high growth  
9 industry sectors and be broad enough to allow  
10 entry into those industry sectors, if an award is  
11 being made pursuant to subsection (d)(3);

12        (3) Each industry certification selection shall be  
13 nationally recognized, or shall be recognized in the  
14 State as representing high quality and rigorous  
15 standards in that industry; and

16        (4) The advisory council shall review and sign the  
17 industry certification proposal and selection to  
18 ensure that the student is aware that the  
19 certification holds value to employers based in the  
20 State.



1        (f) A public high school receiving payment of an industry  
2 certification award shall allocate one hundred per cent of that  
3 award to support or maintain the school's career and technical  
4 education program, including the payment of stipends for  
5 instructors and subsidization of fees for low-income students to  
6 obtain the industry certification.

7        (g) The department shall prepare an annual report on the  
8 progress made under this section, including:

9        (1) The number of public high school students who are  
10 seeking industry certifications for high value  
11 employment;

12        (2) The industry certifications earned by students,  
13 including the number of each type of certification  
14 earned; and

15        (3) The number of public high school students who are  
16 seeking or earning industry certifications and are  
17 economically disadvantaged, English language learners,  
18 or receiving special education services.

19        The department shall submit its annual progress report to  
20 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening



1 of each regular session, beginning with the regular session of  
2 2022."

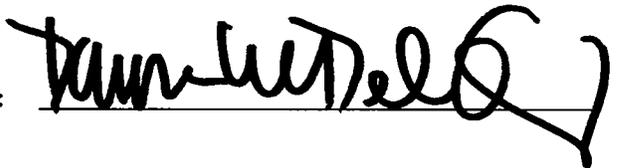
3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2022-2023 for the department of education to implement the  
8 requirements set forth in section 2 of this Act.

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

11 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 509

**Report Title:**

DOE; Public High Schools; Industry Certification Awards;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes criteria for industry certification awards to public high schools and appropriates funds to the Department of Education to incentivize public high schools to encourage students to obtain industry-recognized certifications. Requires the Department to submit an annual report containing specified information about the progress of the incentivization.

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