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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 3,700,000 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:

- 13 (1) Incentivize public high schools to encourage students  
14 to obtain industry certification in high value  
15 occupations by requiring the department of education  
16 to establish high value employment criteria for  
17 industry certification awards to public high schools;  
18 and  
19 (2) Appropriate funds to the department to carry out this  
20 purpose.



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

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

18 (b) The department shall request, and Hawaii P-20  
19 Partnerships for Education shall provide, an annual list of  
20 occupations that meet the high value employment criteria  
21 developed pursuant to subsection (a) and in which an industry-



1 recognized certification is required or will materially enhance  
2 a job applicant's opportunities for employment or compensation  
3 in that occupation.

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

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

12 (1) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
13 certification for an occupation meeting the high value  
14 employment criteria;

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

19 (3) \$100 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
20 certification that does not meet the criteria of  
21 paragraph (1) or (2); provided that the student



1 fulfills regional demands identified by the most  
2 recent Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic  
3 Development Strategy report.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (4) The advisory council shall review and sign the  
20 industry certification proposal and selection to  
21 ensure that the student is aware that the



1           certification holds value to employers based in the  
2           State.

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

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

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

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

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



1       The department shall submit its annual progress report to  
2 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
3 of each regular session, beginning with the regular session of  
4 2022."

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

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

13       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**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. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

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

