
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 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.

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

20 "§302A- Industry certification; awards. (a) The
21 department shall coordinate with the university of Hawaii system



1 and other relevant cross-sector partners, whose mission is to
2 strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through
3 post-secondary education to achieve greater alignment and
4 integration of programs, to develop high value employment
5 criteria for industry certification awards to public high
6 schools. High value employment criteria shall include
7 occupations with high need of additional competent and skilled
8 employees, high growth potential, and high wages. High value
9 employment criteria may also include pre-existing cross-sector
10 initiatives to achieve employment in certain fields. In
11 addition, the department shall consult with employers in the
12 State to obtain critical input about competencies and skills
13 that students need to attain in order to succeed in high value
14 employment occupations.

15 (b) The department shall request, and the relevant cross-
16 sector partners shall provide, an annual list of occupations
17 that meet the high value employment criteria developed pursuant
18 to subsection (a) and in which an industry-recognized
19 certification is required or will materially enhance a job
20 applicant's opportunities for employment or compensation in that
21 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) For a public high school to be eligible to receive
6 payment of industry certification awards:

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

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

10 (A) Meet the high value employment criteria; or

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,

14 as appropriate;

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 students at the public high school



1 receiving an award are aware that the certification
2 holds value to employers based in the State.

3 (e) 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 (f) 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. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



Report Title:

DOE; Public High Schools; Industry Certification Awards

Description:

Establishes criteria for industry certification awards to public high schools 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. (SD2)

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