

JAN 21 2022

S.B. NO. 2809

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii remains among
2 the states with the lowest voter turnout in the nation. While
3 the percentage of eligible voters in 2020 who cast a ballot
4 increased compared to those who did so in 2018, largely due to
5 expanded voter opportunities such as vote by mail, Hawaii is
6 still among the bottom ten states in terms of voter turnout
7 overall. One strategy to increase voter turnout over the long
8 term is to cultivate social and political engagement among
9 students and create opportunities to connect their learning in
10 ways that increase understanding of, and engagement in, real
11 world issues and concerns.

12 The legislature further finds that civic education prepares
13 and encourages students to participate in the public and
14 political life of their communities. Civic education teaches
15 students to recognize social problems, evaluate possible
16 solutions, separate evidence-based claims from opinions, and act
17 on the lessons they learn. Civic education has never been more



1 vital to the functioning of a democratic republic, in the face
2 of increased obstacles and questions as to its long-term
3 viability, than it is now.

4 The legislature additionally finds that the board of
5 education adopted the Hawaii Core Standards for Social Studies
6 (HCSSS) in 2018. The HCSSS use inquiry-based learning and
7 emphasizes the application of knowledge to real-world problems,
8 issues, and concerns. The HCSSS also incorporate new paradigms
9 focusing on global perspectives, multicultural viewpoints,
10 democratic citizenship, connecting the past with the present,
11 collaborative learning and work environments, and applying
12 knowledge to the broader community. As such, the HCSSS are a
13 critical vehicle to strengthen civic education.

14 The purpose of this Act is to increase students' access to
15 civic education by:

- 16 (1) Appropriating funds to the department of education for
17 the expansion of civic education in public schools,
18 including professional development and culturally
19 relevant classroom resources to assist classroom
20 teachers in the implementation of the HCSSS; and



(2) Establishing one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent civic education resource position within the department of education, and appropriating funds for the position.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$84,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the expansion of civic education in public schools, including professional development and culturally relevant classroom resources related to the college, career, and civic life framework for the Hawaii Core Standards for Social Studies.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent civic education resource teacher to be placed within in the department of education, which position shall provide teachers in all complex areas with guidance and training on the best



1 practices in civic education and deep training on the Hawaii
2 Core Standards for Social Studies.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

6
INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rep. Dharma", is written over a horizontal line.



S.B. NO. 2809

Report Title:

Civic Education; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to expand civic education in public schools.

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

