



1 (1) Retain other contractors as necessary to administer  
2 the program and delegate program functions to the  
3 contractors; and

4 (2) Take other actions as necessary to establish,  
5 administer, and enforce the provisions of this Act.

6 (d) The awarding of grants shall be contingent on the  
7 department of taxation verification of the tax information  
8 submitted by the parent and shall be made to eligible students  
9 pursuant to prioritization rules adopted by the department,  
10 which shall substantially conform with the following order of  
11 preference:

12 (1) Eligible students whose families have an adjusted  
13 gross income of \$50,000 or less, or as otherwise  
14 provided by rule of the department to account for  
15 family size;

16 (2) Starting on September 15 of each calendar year,  
17 eligible students whose families have an annual gross  
18 income of \$75,000 or less, or as otherwise provided by  
19 rule of the department to account for family size; and



1           (3) Starting on November 1 of each calendar year, eligible  
2           students on a first come, first served basis until all  
3           available funds are awarded;

4 provided that the department shall adopt rules to equitably  
5 account for family size in awarding grants pursuant to this  
6 subsection; provided further that applications for program  
7 grants shall not be accepted after December 1 of each calendar  
8 year.

9           (e) Notification of grant awards for eligible students  
10 under paragraph (d)(1) shall be made within thirty days from the  
11 department's receipt of the application from the parent of the  
12 eligible student. Grant funds under paragraph (d)(1) shall be  
13 made available for participants' use as soon as practicable but  
14 not more than thirty days after notification of the grant award.

15           (f) Prior to the award of a grant, the parent of a  
16 participant shall agree to verify compliance with the program  
17 requirements.

18           (g) If a parent of a participant is found to misuse grant  
19 funds, then neither the parent nor another parent of the  
20 participant living in the same household may apply for any



1 future program grants; provided that a parent may appeal the  
2 finding of misuse to the department.

3 (h) Grant funds under the program shall be expended in the  
4 fiscal year in which the funds are awarded and shall only be  
5 used for eligible education expenses. Any unused funds at the  
6 end of a fiscal year shall revert to the state general fund.

7 (i) For the purposes of this Act:

8 "Assessment" means an examination or other objective  
9 evaluation of a student's academic performance, academic  
10 engagement, or college or career readiness.

11 "Contractor" means an individual or entity with whom the  
12 department enters into a contract for the purpose of performing  
13 a program function.

14 "Department" means the department of education.

15 "Eligible education expenses" means:

16 (1) Computer hardware, Internet access, or other  
17 technological devices or services that are primarily  
18 used to meet a participant's educational needs;

19 (2) Textbooks, curriculum, or other instructional  
20 materials, including educational software and  
21 applications;



1 (3) Fees for national standardized assessments, advanced  
2 placement examinations, examinations related to  
3 college or university admissions, or industry-  
4 recognized certification examinations;

5 (4) Therapies including but not limited to occupational,  
6 behavioral, physical, speech-language, and audiology  
7 therapies, or other services or therapies specifically  
8 approved by the department; and

9 (5) Supplemental education services.

10 "Eligible student" means a student attending a public  
11 school in grades kindergarten through twelve.

12 "Grant" means an award of \$1,000 that shall be used for  
13 eligible education expenses.

14 "Grant distribution platform" means a device through which  
15 grant funds are transferred from the department to the parents  
16 of participants.

17 "Parent" means a parent or legal guardian of an eligible  
18 student or participant.

19 "Participant" means an eligible student for whom a grant is  
20 awarded under the program.

21 "Program" means the strong students grant pilot program.



1 "Public School" means a department school governed by  
2 chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or a public charter  
3 school governed by chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The department shall submit a report to  
5 the legislature on its efforts to establish the strong students  
6 grant pilot program established by this Act, including any  
7 findings and recommendations, no later than twenty days prior to  
8 the convening of the regular session of 2023.

9 (b) The department shall submit a report to the  
10 legislature on its efforts to implement the strong students  
11 grant pilot program established by this Act, including any  
12 findings and recommendations, no later than twenty days prior to  
13 the convening of the regular session of 2024.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to  
17 establish and administer the strong students grant pilot program  
18 established by this Act.

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

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Strong Students Grant Pilot Program;  
Department of Taxation; Income Verification; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education to establish and administer the Strong Students Grant Pilot Program to provide grants for eligible education expenses to eligible students. Requires the Department of Education to submit progress reports to the Legislature prior to the 2023 and 2024 regular sessions. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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