

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the field of
2 education is changing rapidly to meet the needs of the local and
3 global workforce and communities. Due to this, the line between
4 K-12 education, higher education, and the workforce continue to
5 blur. In order to bolster Hawaii's economy and stem the local
6 brain drain of talent leaving the State, the legislature further
7 finds that it is important for Hawaii's students to attain
8 quality work-based learning opportunities and connections to
9 local employers prior to graduation.

10 The legislature additionally finds that the board of
11 education serves an important policy making function for the
12 Hawaii education system. As schools expand their career
13 readiness programs and partnerships with employers, the board
14 will need to have a sophisticated understanding of policy
15 related to these areas.

16 Furthermore, the legislature finds that the National
17 Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) has specific



1 recommendations for what makes state boards of education most
2 effective. In terms of individual board members, NASBE's
3 recommendations include that members represent all students and
4 families, maintain student achievement as a north star, view all
5 decisions with an equity lens, and make clear decisions.
6 NASBE's recommendations for boards also include serving as the
7 citizen voice in education, leading through policy, and
8 remaining future oriented.

9 Therefore, the legislature finds that Hawaii's education
10 system will benefit through greater diversity of backgrounds,
11 expertise, and perspectives on the board of education, and that
12 individuals serving on the board should conduct themselves in
13 accordance with best practices from expert organizations, such
14 as NASBE.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the
16 minimum qualifications for board of education members to:

17 (1) Diversify the experiences of board members to
18 include knowledge, experience, and proven
19 expertise in education, workforce development,
20 critical industries to the State, emerging
21 fields, energy, advanced manufacturing, health



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1 care, business, technology, entrepreneurship,
2 real estate finance, or organization management;
3 and

4 (2) Clarify that the board of education's best
5 practices should be aligned with those of
6 organizations such as the National Association of
7 State Boards of Education.

8 SECTION 2. Section 302A-126, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

10 "(b) Each nominee shall meet the following minimum
11 qualifications:

12 (1) Record of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical
13 standards. Each nominee shall demonstrate integrity,
14 civic virtue, and high ethical standards and be
15 willing to hold fellow board members to the same;

16 (2) Availability for constructive engagement. Each
17 nominee shall commit to being a conscientious and
18 attentive board member;

19 (3) Knowledge of best practices. Each nominee shall have
20 an understanding of best practices in educational
21 governance through organizations such as the National



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1 Association of State Boards of Education or similar
2 organizations or shall be willing to be trained in
3 such; [~~and~~]

4 (4) Commitment to educational leadership. Each nominee
5 shall have a clear understanding of the board's role
6 in developing and protecting a clear, long-term
7 strategic vision for Hawaii's public schools, and
8 shall understand the need to hold the superintendent
9 of education accountable for making consistent
10 progress toward that vision[~~-~~]; and

11 (5) Relevant experience. The board collectively shall
12 have knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in as
13 many of the following fields as possible, including
14 education, workforce development, critical industries
15 to the State, emerging fields, energy, advanced
16 manufacturing, health care, business, technology,
17 entrepreneurship, real estate, finance, or
18 organizational management."

19 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY

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Report Title:

Board of Education; Members; Qualifications

Description:

Amends the minimum qualifications for board of education members.

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