
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, in the current job
2 market, nearly sixty-five per cent of available positions
3 require post-secondary credentials. Industry-recognized
4 credentials are important because they teach the specific
5 knowledge and skills that are required for an occupation or
6 industry. Full-time employees having industry credentials earn
7 more than their uncredentialed counterparts, and the salaries of
8 credential holders who do not hold college degrees are in some
9 cases similar to the salaries of college graduates.

10 The legislature also finds that the State has critical
11 shortages of qualified and credentialed workers in various
12 sectors, including health, education, air travel, agriculture,
13 and technology. Given the recent downturn in the State's
14 economy and the rise in unemployment, it is especially important
15 for Hawaii to equip its students for the existing job market.
16 To this end, the Promising Credentials project, a collaborative
17 effort aimed at using Hawaii labor market data and local
18 employer insights to identify high-value industry credentials in



1 the State, was launched. This information will enable local
2 career readiness programs to better tailor their offerings to
3 Hawaii's job market and to deliver more effective services to
4 both students and employers.

5 Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, which requires, in
6 part, a statewide longitudinal data system, will better enable
7 the department of education and employers to align offerings and
8 opportunities based on data. The legislature believes that
9 students and employers in Hawaii both benefit when school career
10 readiness programs prepare students based on regional needs.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a career
12 development success program to provide financial incentives for
13 participating public high schools and charter schools to
14 encourage pupils enrolled in grades nine through twelve to
15 enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-
16 credential programs.

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

20 "§302A- Industry-recognized credentials; career
21 development success program. (a) There is established within



1 the department a career development success program to provide
2 financial incentives for participating high schools to encourage
3 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in public high
4 schools to enroll in and successfully complete qualified
5 industry-credential programs.

6 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, each
7 participating school may receive up to \$1,000 for each pupil
8 who, in the preceding fiscal year, successfully completes a
9 qualified industry-credential program. The funds shall be
10 distributed to participating schools as provided in subsections
11 (e) and (f).

12 (c) Each participating school may decide annually whether
13 to participate in the career development success program.

14 (d) The department shall create a process with a deadline
15 for participating schools to report student credential
16 attainment.

17 (e) For each fiscal year, the department shall distribute
18 to each participating school an amount equal to \$1,000
19 multiplied by the number of pupils reported by the participating
20 school as successfully earning an industry certificate by
21 completing a qualified industry-credential program; provided



1 that a participating school shall not receive a distribution for
2 more than ten per cent of the total number of completed industry
3 certificates reported by all participating schools.

4 (f) For each fiscal year, the department shall distribute
5 funds in the following order until all funds are disbursed:

6 (1) Based on the order received by the department, funds
7 shall be distributed first to participating schools
8 for all who attained Advanced Credentials;

9 (2) Based on the order received by the department, funds
10 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
11 who attained Door Opener Credentials;

12 (3) Based on the order received by the department, funds
13 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
14 who attained Springboard Credentials;

15 (4) Based on the order received by the department, funds
16 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
17 who attained Foundational Credentials; and

18 (5) Any remaining funds shall be deposited into the
19 general fund.

20 (g) Each participating school shall regularly communicate
21 to all high school students the availability of qualified



1 industry-credential programs and the benefits a student receives
2 as a result of successfully completing one of the programs or
3 courses. The participating school shall design the
4 communications to students with the goal of increasing
5 participation in the qualified industry-credential programs and
6 courses across all student subgroups.

7 (h) As used in this section:

8 "Advanced Credentials" means credentials that signal
9 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
10 that may also require a bachelor's degree, as determined by the
11 department.

12 "Door Opener Credentials" means credentials that signal
13 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
14 that require some post-secondary education, including
15 certificates and associate degrees, as determined by the
16 department.

17 "Foundational Credentials" means credentials that prepare
18 learners with essential knowledge and skills for a range of
19 priority occupations, including workplace safety, as determined
20 by the department.



1 "Participating school" means a public high school that
2 chooses to participate in the career development success program
3 established pursuant to this section.

4 "Qualified industry-credential program" means a program
5 that is recognized by the department as offering students the
6 opportunity to attain a high-value industry credential.

7 "Springboard Credentials" means credentials that signal
8 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
9 that often do not require a postsecondary certificate or degree,
10 as determined by the department."

11 SECTION 3. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§302D- Industry-recognized credentials; career
15 development success program. (a) There is established by the
16 commission a career development success program to provide
17 financial incentives for participating public charter schools to
18 encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in
19 public charter schools to enroll in and successfully complete
20 qualified industry-credential programs.



1 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, each
2 participating school may receive up to \$1,000 for each pupil
3 who, in the preceding fiscal year, successfully completes a
4 qualified industry-credential program. The funds shall be
5 distributed to participating schools as provided in subsections
6 (e) and (f).

7 (c) Each participating school may decide annually whether
8 to participate in the career development success program.

9 (d) The commission shall create a process with a deadline
10 for participating schools to report student credential
11 attainment.

12 (e) For each fiscal year, the commission shall distribute
13 to each participating school an amount equal to \$1,000
14 multiplied by the number of pupils reported by the participating
15 school as successfully earning an industry certificate by
16 completing a qualified industry-credential program; provided
17 that a participating school shall not receive a distribution for
18 more than ten per cent of the total number of completed industry
19 certificates reported by all participating schools.

20 (f) For each fiscal year, the commission shall distribute
21 funds in the following order until all funds are disbursed:



- 1 (1) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
2 shall be distributed first to participating schools
3 for all who attained Advanced Credentials;
- 4 (2) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
5 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
6 who attained Door Opener Credentials;
- 7 (3) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
8 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
9 who attained Springboard Credentials;
- 10 (4) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
11 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
12 who attained Foundational Credentials; and
- 13 (5) Any remaining funds shall be deposited into the
14 general fund.
- 15 (g) Each participating school shall regularly communicate
16 to all students in grades nine through twelve the availability
17 of qualified industry-credential programs and the benefits a
18 student receives as a result of successfully completing one of
19 the programs or courses. The participating school shall design
20 the communications to students with the goal of increasing



1 participation in the qualified industry-credential programs and
2 courses across all student subgroups.

3 (h) As used in this section:

4 "Advanced Credentials" means credentials that signal
5 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
6 that may also require a bachelor's degree, as determined by the
7 department.

8 "Door Opener Credentials" means credentials that signal
9 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
10 that require some post-secondary education, including
11 certificates and associate degrees, as determined by the
12 department.

13 "Foundational Credentials" means credentials that prepare
14 learners with essential knowledge and skills for a range of
15 priority occupations, including workplace safety, as determined
16 by the department.

17 "Participating school" means a public charter school that
18 chooses to participate in the career development success program
19 established pursuant to this section.



1 "Qualified industry-credential program" means a program
2 that is recognized by the department as offering students the
3 opportunity to attain a high-value industry credential.

4 "Springboard Credentials" means credentials that signal
5 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
6 that often do not require a postsecondary certificate or degree,
7 as determined by the department."

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,470,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
11 career development success program established pursuant to
12 section 2 of this Act.

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

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$130,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
18 career development success program established pursuant to
19 section 3 of this Act.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public
21 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.



- 1 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Education; Industry-Recognized Credentials; Career Development; Public High Schools; Public Charter Schools; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a career development success program within the Department of Education to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs. Establishes a similar program for public charter schools. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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

