

JAN 19 2024

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# 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 financial education  
2 is a lifelong learning process that empowers individuals to plan  
3 for their futures. Historically, the education system has  
4 assumed that students learn important financial skills from  
5 their families. However, not all students are taught the  
6 financial skills they will need to be successful later in life.  
7 Presently, the lack of financial literacy poses a significant  
8 barrier for individuals seeking to achieve financial prosperity  
9 and stability. Personal financial education is essential to  
10 ensure that the State's youth are prepared to manage money,  
11 credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of  
12 households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and  
13 citizens.

14           Nationwide, there is growing support for a personal finance  
15 course requirement for high school graduation. In a 2022 poll  
16 conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, eighty-eight per  
17 cent of respondents supported a requirement of a semester- or



1 year-long course focused on personal finance education for high  
2 school graduation. Eighty per cent of adults also responded  
3 that they wished they were required to complete a semester- or  
4 year-long course focused on personal finance during high school.  
5 Regarding selected topics to be taught, seventy-five per cent of  
6 respondents selected spending and budgeting; fifty-five per cent  
7 selected credit management; and forty-nine per cent selected  
8 savings. Increasing opportunities for financial literacy may  
9 alleviate growing uncertainty over financial preparedness and  
10 challenges faced by young adults.

11 The legislature also finds that in 2013 and 2017, the State  
12 received an "F" grade, meaning that schools did not offer any  
13 education on personal finances. In 2023, the State received a  
14 "D" grade in its ability to prepare students for financial  
15 literacy upon graduation from high school. While most Hawaii  
16 high schools require students to complete a personal transition  
17 plan before graduation, the requirements are self-directed,  
18 remain underfunded, and lack a clear framework for long-term  
19 financial success.

20 In 2015, the financial literacy task force issued its final  
21 report, noting that financial literacy is a subject that should



1 be taught in schools. As certain community resources had  
2 restrictions that were limited to specific islands or areas, a  
3 coordinated state effort would provide greater equity for all  
4 students to engage with financial literacy topics. The task  
5 force noted that increasing partnerships between the department  
6 of education and community stakeholders to provide national and  
7 local financial literacy resources; identifying core financial  
8 literacy concepts; providing professional development  
9 opportunities for educators; integrating financial literacy into  
10 curriculum; and securing federal funding for financial literacy  
11 programs may address the implementation of a statewide program  
12 for all schools.

13 Therefore, legislature further finds that it is of the  
14 utmost importance to educate Hawaii's youth in economic and  
15 financial matters to prepare them for financial independence  
16 through the development of fiscal responsibility and financial  
17 management skills.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
19 department of education to include the teaching of financial  
20 literacy in the existing personal transition plan course  
21 requirement.



# S.B. NO. 2800

1 SECTION 2. Commencing with the 2025-2026 school year, the  
2 department of education shall require the teaching of financial  
3 literacy to be included in the existing personal transition plan  
4 requirement for each student. Schools may develop their  
5 financial literacy program based on the particular school's  
6 stakeholder input on the scope and sequence of its personal  
7 transition plan or provide financial literacy systemically in  
8 their school program.

9 For purposes of this section, "financial literacy" includes  
10 but is not limited to curriculum addressing financial skills,  
11 personal financial management, budgeting, debt, credit, and tax  
12 planning.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 2800

**Report Title:**

DOE; Financial Literacy; Curriculum

**Description:**

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, requires the Department of Education to require the teaching of financial literacy to be included in the existing personal transition plan requirement for each student.

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

