

# S.B. NO. 1386

JAN 23 2025

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,  
2 authorized the department of education until June 30, 2020, to  
3 award high school diplomas to qualified persons who did not  
4 receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory  
5 induction into active service in the armed services.

6           The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of  
7 education to award high school diplomas to qualified persons who  
8 did not receive a high school diploma as a result of  
9 compulsorily or voluntarily induction into active service in the  
10 armed services of the United States or any person whose high  
11 school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during  
12 World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War.

13           SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding to part II a new section to part II to be  
15 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

16           "§302A-           High school diploma for armed services veterans  
17 and others. (a) The department is authorized to establish a  
18 program to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who

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1 did not receive a high school diploma as a result of  
2 compulsorily or voluntarily induction into active service in the  
3 armed services of the United States.

4 (b) For purposes of this section, a "qualified person" is  
5 a person who:

6 (1) Was a resident of the State or the Territory of  
7 Hawaii;

8 (2) Was compulsorily or voluntarily inducted into the  
9 armed services of the United States between:

10 (A) December 1, 1941, and August 30, 1945;

11 (B) June 1, 1950, and July 31, 1953; or

12 (C) August 1, 1964, and January 31, 1973,

13 while enrolled in a high school in the State or the

14 Territory of Hawaii; and

15 (3) Did not complete a high school curriculum and receive  
16 a high school diploma.

17 (c) The department shall also award a high school diploma  
18 to any person whose high school education was interrupted and  
19 did not receive a diploma due to wartime practices during World  
20 War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War.

21 (d) Qualified persons shall submit to the department, on  
22 forms that the department shall prescribe, information

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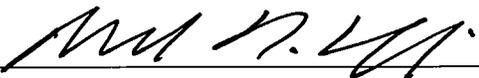
1 establishing eligibility for the award of a high school diploma  
2 under this section."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: 

7

BY REQUEST

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**Report Title:**

Veterans; High School Diploma; DOE

**Description:**

Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a program to award a high school diploma to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsorily or voluntarily induction into the armed services of the United States and to persons whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

**SB. NO. 1386**

DEPARTMENT: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION.

PURPOSE: To authorize the Department to award high school diplomas to qualified persons who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory or voluntary induction into active service in the armed services of the United States or any person whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices during World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War.

MEANS: Add a new section to part II of chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: Individuals whose high school education was interrupted during wartime periods did not have the opportunity to complete their high school education.

The Department was allowed to provide veterans a high school diploma pursuant to section 302A-431.9, HRS. However, this section expired on June 30, 2020. The Department would like to restart this diploma program for veterans and other individuals whose high school education was interrupted during wartime periods.

Impact on the public: For those individuals who were affected by wartime and were not able to complete their high school education, this bill would allow them to receive the high school diploma they would have earned. For veterans who were compulsorily or voluntarily inducted into the armed services during high school, a high school diploma acknowledges their commitment and sacrifice while also recognizing the skills and experience they gained during service. Receiving a diploma can have a significant positive impact on a

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veteran's self-esteem, sense of accomplishment, and access to opportunities.

Impact on the department and other agencies:

The passage of this bill would allow the Department to confer a high school diploma on qualified individuals who were not able to complete their education due to wartime service or other circumstances during wartime. The Department will vet each candidate to ensure each candidate's qualifications before conferring the diploma.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: None.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.