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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in Hawai'i, community  
2 schools are innovative, thriving hubs of learning, in which  
3 partnerships and collaboration create a'o mai, a'o aku, places to  
4 learn, teach, or impart knowledge, and establish reciprocal  
5 relationships between learners and place, content and context,  
6 and schools and communities. Community schools are needed to  
7 help align and leverage resources already in the community to  
8 address students' barriers to learning. Through inclusive  
9 decision-making, a shared vision, actionable data, and trusting  
10 pilina, community schools focus on supporting students and  
11 families through the following key practices:

- 12           (1) Expanded enriched learning opportunities;  
13           (2) Rigorous community-connected classroom instruction;  
14           (3) Culture of belonging, safety, and care;  
15           (4) Powerful family and student engagement;  
16           (5) Integrated systems of support;  
17           (6) Collaborative leadership, shared voice, and power; and



1 (7) Grounded in Hawai'i.

2 The legislature further finds that community schools are a  
3 proven, time-tested strategy that can produce short-term results  
4 like improving family engagement and attendance and decreasing  
5 behavioral referrals. It is also proven to produce long-term  
6 results like improving academic scores, school culture and  
7 climate, student enrollment, teacher retention, and graduation  
8 rates. A study on community schools in Albuquerque, New Mexico  
9 found that for every dollar invested in a community school  
10 coordinator returned approximately \$7.11 of net benefits.  
11 Another study on community schools in New York City found that  
12 community schools had positive and significant effects on on-  
13 time grade progression for elementary and middle school  
14 students, and high school graduation rates. A recent report by  
15 the Learning Policy Institute cited community schools as a  
16 promising approach to improving attendance because they can  
17 create the conditions needed for learning.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
19 funds to the department of education to support community  
20 schools.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,285,655 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
4 \$2,703,491 for fiscal year 2026-2027 for community schools,  
5 including one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) program manager in  
6 the department of education.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
8 of education for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3 This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: Ray A. Allen



# S.B. NO. 821

**Report Title:**

DOE; Community Schools; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for community schools and a program manager position.

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

