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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO REQUIRE THAT THE  
STATEWIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM BE THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that article X, section  
2   1, of the Hawaii State Constitution requires the State to  
3   provide a system of public education but makes no mention of the  
4   quality of the education system that the State is obligated to  
5   provide. Compared to other states, Hawaii is unique because the  
6   State, rather than a county or local level jurisdiction, is  
7   responsible for public education. While the United Nations has  
8   declared education to be a fundamental human right because a  
9   quality education is a critical asset for individuals and  
10   economies competing in today's globalized world, Hawaii  
11   struggles to provide a quality education to all keiki. This  
12   struggle is evidenced by a teacher shortage that stands at one  
13   hundred sixty-six vacancies as of the start of the 2024-2025  
14   school year and decaying school facilities.

15       The legislature also finds that the COVID-19 pandemic  
16   highlighted inequalities existing within Hawaii's public



1 education system, with socioeconomically disadvantaged  
2 communities and impoverished families often lacking the  
3 resources needed to participate in distance learning programs.  
4 Similarly, special education and high-needs students faced  
5 challenges in accessing the resources needed to support their  
6 educational progress. While these problems were revealed by the  
7 COVID-19 pandemic, they reflect and exacerbate longstanding  
8 disparities in the State's public school system, including an  
9 ongoing teacher shortage, inadequate resources for special  
10 education and high-needs children, deteriorating public school  
11 facilities, and a lack of culturally relevant education  
12 opportunities for native Hawaiian students.

13 The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to  
14 article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to  
15 require that the statewide public school system be thorough and  
16 efficient.

17 SECTION 2. Article X, section 1, of the Constitution of  
18 the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

19 **"PUBLIC EDUCATION**

20 **Section 1.** The State shall provide for the establishment,  
21 support and control of a thorough and efficient statewide system



1 of public schools free from sectarian control, a state  
2 university, public libraries and such other educational  
3 institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical  
4 facilities therefor. There shall be no discrimination in public  
5 educational institutions because of race, religion, sex or  
6 ancestry; nor shall public funds be appropriated for the support  
7 or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational  
8 institution, except that proceeds of special purpose revenue  
9 bonds authorized or issued under section 12 of Article VII may  
10 be appropriated to finance or assist:

11 1. Not-for-profit corporations that provide early childhood  
12 education and care facilities serving the general public; and

13 2. Not-for-profit private nonsectarian and sectarian  
14 elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and  
15 universities."

16 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
17 be as follows:

18 "Shall the Hawaii State Constitution be amended to require  
19 the statewide public school system to be thorough and  
20 efficient?"

21 SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.



1       SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon  
2 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of  
3 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Amy Peruse

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# H.B. NO. 930

**Report Title:**

Education; Public School System; Constitutional Amendment

**Description:**

Proposes an amendment to article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to require that the statewide public school system be thorough and efficient.

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