

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1130

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 22, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 22, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2125, S.D. 1, H.D. 2,  
C.D. 1

RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING.  
**ACT 030**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on MAY 22 2026

THE SENATE  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 030**  
**S.B. NO.** 2125  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING.

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

- 1           SECTION 1. Section 302A-804, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended as follows:
- 3           1. By amending subsection (b) to read:
- 4           "(b) The department's powers and duties under this subpart  
5 shall be limited to:
- 6           (1) Hiring, except in emergency situations as described in  
7 this chapter, licensed teachers to teach in their  
8 fields of licensing;
- 9           (2) Reporting data annually to the board about the supply  
10 of, and demand for, teachers in department schools,  
11 including the identification of shortage areas,  
12 out-of-field teaching assignments, number of  
13 classrooms without a licensed teacher for a quarter or  
14 more, numbers of teachers teaching out-of-field,  
15 numbers and types of courses and classes taught by  
16 out-of-field teachers, and numbers and types of  
17 students taught by out-of-field teachers;



- 1           (3) On an emergency and case-by-case basis, hiring  
2           unlicensed individuals; provided that:
- 3           (A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching  
4           assignments, and progress toward licensing of  
5           these individuals shall be reported to the board  
6           and any changes shall be updated on a monthly  
7           basis by the department;
- 8           (B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the  
9           specific assignments for which the individuals  
10          are being hired; and
- 11          (C) No individual may be employed by the department  
12          on an emergency basis for more than [~~three~~] five  
13          years; provided that in the case of a declaration  
14          of a state of emergency pursuant to section  
15          127A-14, the board, pursuant to its powers in  
16          section 302A-803(a)(18), may extend the [~~three-~~  
17          ~~year~~] five-year period by authorizing an  
18          extension to complete licensing requirements[~~-~~  
19          During]; provided further that during this time,  
20          the individual shall demonstrate active pursuit  
21          of licensing in each year of employment[+]



1                   through continuous and verifiable progress toward  
2                   satisfying licensing requirements, including  
3                   enrollment in an approved teacher education  
4                   program, completion of relevant coursework,  
5                   mentorship, application of necessary credentials,  
6                   or other method approved by the board;

- 7           (4) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:  
8                   (A) The number of emergency hires in department  
9                   schools by subject matter areas and by school;  
10                  (B) The reasons and duration of employment for the  
11                  emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A);  
12                  and  
13                  (C) The department's efforts to address the shortages  
14                  described in subparagraph (A); and  
15           (5) Providing any other information requested by the board  
16                  that is pertinent to its powers and duties."

17           2. By amending subsection (d) to read:  
18                  "(d) A charter school's powers and duties under this  
19                  subpart shall be limited to:



- 1 (1) Except in emergency situations as described in this  
2 chapter, hiring licensed teachers to teach in their  
3 fields of licensing;
- 4 (2) On an emergency and case-by-case basis, hiring  
5 unlicensed individuals; provided that:
- 6 (A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching  
7 assignments, and progress toward licensing of  
8 these individuals shall be reported to the board  
9 and any changes shall be updated on a monthly  
10 basis by the charter schools;
- 11 (B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the  
12 specific assignments for which the individuals  
13 are being hired; and
- 14 (C) No individual may be employed by the charter  
15 school on an emergency basis for more than  
16 [~~three~~] five years; provided that in the case of  
17 a declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to  
18 section 127A-14, the board, pursuant to its  
19 powers in section 302A-803(a)(18), may extend the  
20 [~~three-year~~] five-year period by authorizing an  
21 extension to complete licensing requirements[-



1 ~~During~~]; provided further that during this time,  
2 the individual shall demonstrate active pursuit  
3 of licensing in each year of employment[+]   
4 through continuous and verifiable progress toward  
5 satisfying the licensing requirements, including  
6 enrollment in an approved teacher education  
7 program, completion of relevant coursework,  
8 mentorship, application of necessary credentials,  
9 or other method approved by the board;

- 10 (3) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:
- 11 (A) The number of emergency hires in the charter  
12 school by subject matter areas;
- 13 (B) The reasons and duration of employment for the  
14 emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A);
- 15 (C) The number of classrooms without a licensed  
16 teacher for a quarter or more;
- 17 (D) The number and type of courses and classes taught  
18 by out-of-field teachers; and
- 19 (E) The number and type of students taught by out-of-  
20 field teachers; and



1 (4) Providing any other information requested by the board  
2 that is pertinent to the charter school's powers and  
3 duties."

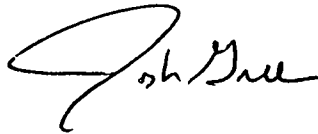
4 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
7 provided that on June 30, 2031, this Act shall be repealed and  
8 section 302A-804, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in  
9 the form in which it read on the day prior to the effective date  
10 of this Act; provided further that any individual employed by  
11 the department of education or a charter school on an emergency  
12 basis pursuant to section 302A-804(b)(3) or (d)(2), Hawaii  
13 Revised Statutes, before June 30, 2031, shall be permitted to  
14 continue such employment for up to five years from the  
15 individual's initial date of hire; provided further that the  
16 individual shall continue to demonstrate active pursuit of  
17 licensing each year of employment as required pursuant to this  
18 Act.



S.B. NO. 2125  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 22nd day of May , 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: May 6, 2026  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2125, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives