

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1183

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 4, 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 June 4, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 2297, H.D. 1, S.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO EDUCATION.
ACT 083

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

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 existing law lists
 2 program areas that no longer align with federal requirements
 3 under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act of 1998,
 4 reauthorized as title II of the Workforce Innovation and
 5 Opportunity Act of 2014, and its implementing regulations in
 6 title 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 463.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to update Hawaii's
 8 statutory framework for adult and community education programs
 9 to ensure alignment with federal adult education funding
 10 requirements and current best practices in those programs by:

- 11 (1) Modernizing terminology to align with current adult
 12 education practices;
- 13 (2) Adding English language acquisition and integrated
 14 English literacy and civics education;
- 15 (3) Updating the term "homemaking and parent education" to
 16 "family and community education";



- 1 (4) Establishing workplace literacy and workforce
2 preparation programs as a core component; and
3 (5) Defining which individuals are "eligible individuals"
4 for those programs that receive federal funding under
5 the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

6 SECTION 2. Section 302A-433, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§302A-433 Scope of adult and community education programs**
9 **offered.** (a) As rapidly as resources are available and
10 interest is developed, instructional programs shall be initiated
11 in the following fields:

- 12 (1) [~~Basic elementary education.~~] Adult basic education.
13 A foundation program in reading [~~and~~], writing,
14 speaking English, [~~writing, and arithmetic~~] and
15 mathematics for [~~persons~~] eligible individuals with no
16 schooling or only primary grade training[~~+~~], or who
17 need to strengthen their basic skills for daily life
18 or employment;
- 19 (2) [~~Advanced elementary education.~~] Adult secondary
20 education. A program [~~in advanced elementary~~



1 ~~education]~~ of secondary-level instruction for ~~[those~~
2 ~~persons]~~;

3 (A) Eligible individuals who have ~~[completed four to~~
4 ~~eight years of schooling and who desire to obtain~~
5 ~~more complete mastery of the fundamentals,]~~ left
6 school or had their education curtailed and now
7 desire to complete a high school equivalency or
8 adult school diploma;

9 (B) Youths sixteen or older who have been excepted
10 from compulsory attendance under section
11 302A-1132; and

12 (C) Youths sixteen or older who are in need of
13 courses to complete their high school graduation
14 requirements;

15 (3) ~~[Secondary education. A program of secondary~~
16 ~~education for those adults who, in youth, left school~~
17 ~~or for some reason had their education curtailed and~~
18 ~~who now desire to continue their education; for those~~
19 ~~youths who have been excepted from compulsory~~
20 ~~attendance under section 302A-1132; and for those~~
21 ~~youths who are in need of courses to complete their~~



- 1 ~~high school graduation requirements;~~ Adult literacy
2 education. A program in reading, writing, and
3 mathematics for eligible individuals who need to
4 develop or improve their literacy skills to enhance
5 their personal, social, or employment lives;
- 6 (4) [~~Adult literacy education. A basic program in reading~~
7 ~~and writing English, and arithmetic for persons who~~
8 ~~need to develop or improve their mastery of basic~~
9 ~~literacy skills in these areas for purposes of~~
10 ~~enhancing their personal, social, or employment~~
11 ~~lives;~~] English language acquisition and integrated
12 English literacy and civics education. A program to
13 assist eligible individuals who are English language
14 learners in acquiring reading, writing, speaking, and
15 comprehension skills, including civics education to
16 support effective participation in community and civic
17 life;
- 18 (5) [~~Homemaking and parent~~] Family and community
19 education. A program [in homemaking and parent
20 education] for [all these] parents and other adults
21 [who desire training] in family life[,including]



1 skills, child [care, nursing, budgeting, and other
2 instruction basic to homemaking,] development,
3 financial literacy, health and wellness, and other
4 areas that strengthen family engagement and support
5 children's educational success, including family
6 literacy activities that integrate parent and family
7 adult education, early childhood education, parenting
8 education, and interactive literacy activities;

9 (6) Workplace literacy and workforce preparation.
10 Programs designed to improve the basic and
11 employability skills of eligible individuals to
12 function effectively in the workplace, including
13 contextualized instruction developed in partnership
14 with employers;

15 [+6] (7) Community education. [A program to] Programs
16 that facilitate understanding and enlightenment in
17 civic duties, responsibilities, and obligations for
18 all [persons] individuals who desire to keep pace with
19 today's community, national, and world developments
20 and who realize the necessity of continuing study for
21 the adequate fulfillment of their civic functions.



1 Community education addresses responsibilities within
2 a given community, especially concerns related to
3 education and the schools, and offers additional
4 services to supplement and enrich the educational
5 program of in-school children and youths; provided
6 that these programs may also provide opportunities for
7 lifelong learning and community engagement;

8 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) Naturalization training. The standard course of
9 training provided by the United States Citizenship and
10 Immigration Services ~~[, which shall be provided to all~~
11 ~~those persons]~~ for all individuals who have filed
12 applications for United States citizenship and desire
13 to enroll in ~~[such a]~~ the course under the supervision
14 of the department; and

15 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) Cultural and enrichment opportunities. ~~[A~~
16 ~~program of adult and community education that will]~~
17 Programs that meet the interests and desires of ~~[those~~
18 ~~people who wish to enrich and]~~ individuals seeking to
19 broaden their cultural, recreational, and social
20 ~~[interests.]~~ knowledge and experiences.

21 (b) For the purposes of this section:



1 "Adult" means an individual eighteen years of age or older.

2 "Eligible individual" means an individual:

3 (1) Who has attained sixteen years of age;

4 (2) Who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in
5 secondary school under state law; and

6 (3) Who:

7 (A) Does not have a secondary school diploma or its
8 recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an
9 equivalent level of education; or

10 (B) Is an English language learner.

11 "English language learner" means an eligible individual who
12 has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or
13 comprehending the English language, and:

14 (1) Whose native language is a language other than
15 English; or

16 (2) Who lives in a family or community environment in
17 which a language other than English is the dominant
18 language."

19 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



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



H.B. NO. 2297
H.D. 1
S.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 4th day of June , 2026



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 2297, HD 1, SD 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

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 1, 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