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# 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 the current state  
2 statute lists program areas that no longer align with federal  
3 requirements under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act,  
4 title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and  
5 implementing regulations in title 34 Code of Federal Regulations  
6 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 practice;

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";

17       (4) Establishing workplace literacy and workforce  
18 preparation programs as a core component; and

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- (5) Defining which individuals are "eligible individuals" for those programs that receive federal funding under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

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

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

- (1) ~~[Basic elementary education.]~~ Adult basic education.

A foundation program in reading ~~[and]~~, writing, speaking English, ~~[writing, and arithmetic]~~, and mathematics for ~~[persons]~~ eligible individuals with no schooling or only primary grade training~~[+]~~, or for eligible individuals who need to strengthen their basic skills for daily life or employment;

- (2) ~~[Advanced elementary education.]~~ Adult secondary education. A program ~~[in advanced elementary education]~~ of secondary-level instruction for ~~[these persons]:~~

(A) Eligible individuals who have ~~[completed four to eight years of schooling and who desire to obtain~~

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1 ~~more complete mastery of the fundamentals;]~~ left  
2 school or had their education curtailed and now  
3 desire to complete a high school equivalency or  
4 adult school diploma;

5 (B) Youths sixteen or older who have been excepted  
6 from compulsory attendance under section 302A-  
7 1132; and

8 (C) Youths sixteen or older who are in need of  
9 courses to complete their high school graduation  
10 requirements;

11 (3) ~~[Secondary education. A program of secondary~~  
12 ~~education for those adults who, in youth, left school~~  
13 ~~or for some reason had their education curtailed and~~  
14 ~~who now desire to continue their education; for those~~  
15 ~~youths who have been excepted from compulsory~~  
16 ~~attendance under section 302A-1132; and for those~~  
17 ~~youths who are in need of courses to complete their~~  
18 ~~high school graduation requirements;]~~ Adult literacy  
19 education. A program in reading, writing, and  
20 mathematics for eligible individuals who need to  
21 develop or improve their literacy skills to enhance  
22 their personal, social, or employment lives;

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1           (4)   ~~[Adult literacy education. A basic program in reading~~  
2                   ~~and writing English, and arithmetic for persons who~~  
3                   ~~need to develop or improve their mastery of basic~~  
4                   ~~literacy skills in these areas for purposes of~~  
5                   ~~enhancing their personal, social, or employment~~  
6                   ~~lives;]~~ English language acquisition and integrated  
7                   English literacy and civics education. A program to  
8                   assist eligible individuals who are English language  
9                   learners in acquiring reading, writing, speaking, and  
10                  comprehension skills, including civics education to  
11                  support effective participation in community and civic  
12                  life;

13           (5)   ~~[Homemaking and parent]~~ Family and community  
14                   education. A program ~~[in homemaking and parent~~  
15                   ~~education]~~ for ~~[all those]~~ parents and other adults  
16                   ~~[who desire training]~~ in family life~~[, including]~~  
17                   skills, child ~~[care, nursing, budgeting, and other~~  
18                   ~~instruction basic to homemaking;]~~ development,  
19                   financial literacy, health and wellness, and other  
20                   areas that strengthen family engagement and support  
21                   children's educational success, including family  
22                   literacy activities that integrate parent and family

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1        adult education, early childhood education, parenting  
2        education, and interactive literacy activities;

3        (6) Workplace literacy and workforce preparation.

4        Programs designed to improve the basic and  
5        employability skills of eligible individuals to  
6        function effectively in the workplace, including  
7        contextualized instruction developed in partnership  
8        with employers;

9        ~~[-(6)]~~ (7) Community education. [A program to] Programs  
10       that facilitate understanding and enlightenment in  
11       civic duties, responsibilities, and obligations for  
12       all ~~[persons]~~ individuals who desire to keep pace with  
13       today's community, national, and world developments  
14       and who realize the necessity of continuing study for  
15       the adequate fulfillment of their civic functions.  
16       Community education addresses responsibilities within  
17       a given community, especially concerns related to  
18       education and the schools, and offers additional  
19       services to supplement and enrich the educational  
20       program of in-school children and youths. These  
21       programs may also provide opportunities for lifelong  
22       learning and community engagement;

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1        ~~[-(7)]~~ (8) Naturalization training. The standard course of  
2                    training provided by the United States Citizenship and  
3                    Immigration Services ~~[, which shall be provided to all~~  
4                    ~~those persons]~~ for all individuals who have filed  
5                    applications for United States citizenship and desire  
6                    to enroll in ~~[such a]~~ the course under the supervision  
7                    of the department; and

8        ~~[-(8)]~~ (9) Cultural and enrichment opportunities. [A  
9                    ~~program of adult and community education that will]~~  
10                   Programs that meet the interests and desires of ~~[those~~  
11                   ~~people who wish to enrich and]~~ individuals seeking to  
12                   broaden their cultural, recreational, and social  
13                   ~~[interests.]~~ knowledge and experiences.

14                   (b) For the purposes of this section, unless the context  
15 otherwise requires:

16                   "Adult" means an individual who is age eighteen or older.

17                   "Basic skills deficient" means an individual:

18                   (1) Who is a youth, that the individual has English  
19                   reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the  
20                   eighth-grade level on a generally accepted  
21                   standardized test; or

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(2) Who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual's family, or in society.

"Eligible individual" means an individual:

(1) Who has attained sixteen years of age;

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

(3) Who:

(A) Is basic skills deficient;

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

(C) Is an English language learner.

"English language learner" when used with respect to an eligible individual, means an eligible individual who has limited ability in reading, writing, speaking, or comprehending the English language, and:

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

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

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1       SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Nedra K. Robinson*

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BY REQUEST

JAN 26 2026



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**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Adult and Community Education; Scope of Programs

**Description:**

Updates Hawaii's statutory framework for adult and community education programs to ensure alignment with federal funding requirements and current best practices in those programs.

*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

DEPARTMENT: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION.

PURPOSE: To update Hawaii's statutory framework for adult and community education programs to ensure alignment with federal funding requirements and current best practices in adult and community education programs.

MEANS: Amend section 302A-433, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The current statute governing adult and community education programs contains outdated terminology and program descriptions that no longer align with federal funding requirements under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and implementing regulations in title 34 Code of Federal Regulations part 463, or with current best practices. As a result, Hawaii risks misalignment with federal funding streams and programmatic expectations.

This bill modernizes and expands the scope of adult education by:

- Updating terminology to reflect current practice;
- Adding English language acquisition and integrated English literacy and civics education as program areas;
- Establishing workplace literacy and workforce preparation as a core component of adult education programs;
- Clarifying and strengthening other areas such as community education, naturalization training, and cultural and enrichment programs; and
- Defining which individuals are eligible individuals for those programs that

receive federal funding under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

These changes ensure Hawaii's adult education statute remains current and consistent with federal law.

Impact on the public: Adults will have greater access to updated and relevant educational opportunities that support personal growth, family stability, civic participation, and workforce readiness.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The department will be able to align its adult education programs with federal requirements, thereby protecting eligibility for federal funds and ensuring compliance.

GENERAL FUND:	None.
OTHER FUNDS:	None.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:	None.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:	None.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon approval.