

JAN 23 2026

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 existing
2 statewide public high school social studies curriculum does not
3 sufficiently integrate Asian American history, including the
4 significant contributions of the 100th Infantry Battalion during
5 World War II. Despite the large percentage of Asian American
6 residents in the State, an underrepresentation of Asian American
7 history in educational settings contributes to marginalization
8 and racial stereotypes.

9 The legislature further finds that integrating narratives
10 from Asian American history aligns with the state social studies
11 content standards. Notably, History Anchor Standard 17, Change,
12 Continuity, and Contest and Content Standard SS.US.8.17.2
13 requires students to assess the social, political, and economic
14 transformation of the United States during World War II. The
15 100th Infantry Battalion was composed primarily of Japanese
16 American soldiers and began its training in the Territory of
17 Hawaii. The Battalion's narrative therefore can offer students



1 an exemplary opportunity to learn of their valor despite the
2 discrimination they faced and engage with history through a
3 local and multicultural lens.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

5 (1) Require the department of education to implement a
6 curricula plan that integrates the history of the
7 100th Infantry Battalion into public high school
8 social studies courses beginning with the 2027-2028
9 school year; and

10 (2) Require the department of education to implement a
11 100th Infantry Battalion history curriculum pilot
12 program beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

13 This Act may be known and cited as the Hawaii 100th
14 Infantry Battalion Curriculum and Heritage Act.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to be
17 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

18 "§302A- 100th Infantry Battalion history; social
19 studies; curricula plan; public schools. (a) The department
20 shall develop and, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year,
21 implement a statewide 100th Infantry Battalion history curricula



1 plan for public school students in grades nine through twelve,
2 which shall be implemented within social studies courses of
3 study.

4 (b) A minimum of hours of instruction of the 100th
5 Infantry Battalion history curricula between grades nine through
6 twelve shall be required for each student prior to graduation
7 from high school.

8 (c) The 100th Infantry Battalion history curricula shall
9 include but not be limited to:

- 10 (1) Studying the formation and composition of the 100th
11 Infantry Battalion, including its segregated status
12 and issues with historic anti-Asian sentiments;
- 13 (2) Assessing the formation and activities of the 442nd
14 Regimental Combat Team;
- 15 (3) Identifying the combat achievements of the 100th
16 Infantry Battalion, including its participation in
17 notable battles and receipt of decorations;
- 18 (4) Evaluating the legacy and influence of the 100th
19 Infantry Battalion, including its role in the
20 desegregation of the armed services of the United



1 States and contributions to Asian American cultural
2 heritage; and

3 (5) Integrating local history into the broader national
4 context, including contextualizing the 100th Infantry
5 Battalion in Asian American history more broadly.

6 (d) The department shall establish curriculum guidelines
7 and distribute information about appropriate curriculum
8 materials to each public school and make available in-service
9 training programs based upon instruction provided for and the
10 curriculum guidelines established pursuant to this section.

11 (e) Public schools may utilize:

12 (1) Any curriculum that complies with the requirements of
13 this section;

14 (2) Programs made available by the department or from
15 alternative sources; provided that the programs are
16 deemed consistent with this section; and

17 (3) Any appropriate public or private materials,
18 personnel, and other resources in developing and
19 implementing the program of instruction.

20 (f) The department shall work in consultation with
21 organizations and individuals that provide educational expertise



1 and resources related to the history of the 100th Infantry
2 Battalion to develop the curriculum guidelines.

3 (g) As used in this section:

4 "100th Infantry Battalion" means the decorated unit
5 composed of second-generation Japanese Americans activated
6 June 12, 1942, that served in World War II and exemplified
7 loyalty, community, and sacrifice.

8 "Asian American history" means the contributions,
9 collective resistance, and achievements of Asian Americans
10 throughout the history of the United States.

11 "Cultural heritage" means the traditions and histories
12 shaping a community's identity, including those specific to
13 Asian American and Pacific Islander groups in the State."

14 SECTION 3. (a) There is established within the department
15 of education a one-year 100th Infantry Battalion history
16 curriculum pilot program within a select number of public high
17 schools during the 2026-2027 school year; provided that the
18 department of education shall select the participating public
19 high schools pursuant to the requirements of this section and
20 available funding.



8 (c) During the course of the pilot program, the department
9 of education shall require the teaching of the 100th Infantry
10 Battalion history curricula plan to be included in existing
11 social studies courses required for each student.

12 (d) The department of education shall submit a report of
13 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
14 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
15 to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

16 (e) As used in this section, "public school" has the same
17 meaning as defined in section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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20 INTRODUCED BY: *Carol Fahnstock*



S.B. NO. **2687**

Report Title:

DOE; Public Schools; 100th Infantry Battalion; Asian American History; Curricula Plan; Pilot Program; Report

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a 100th Infantry Battalion history curricula plan beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Establishes a one-year 100th Infantry Battalion history curriculum pilot program within certain public high schools during the 2026-2027 school year. Requires a report to the Legislature.

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

