

S.B. NO. 3116

JAN 28 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 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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1 (5) Defining which individuals are "eligible individuals"
2 for those programs that receive federal funding under
3 the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

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

6 "S302A-433 Scope of adult and community education programs

7 **offered.** (a) As rapidly as resources are available and
8 interest is developed, instructional programs shall be initiated
9 in the following fields:

10 (1) [Basic elementary education.] Adult basic education.

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

17 (2) [Advanced elementary education.] Adult secondary
18 education. A program [in advanced elementary
19 education] of secondary-level instruction for [those
20 persons];

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

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

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

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

(3) Secondary education. A program of secondary education for those adults who, in youth, left school or for some reason had their education curtailed and who now desire to continue their education; for those youths who have been excepted from compulsory attendance under section 302A-1132; and for those youths who are in need of courses to complete their high school graduation requirements;] Adult literacy education. A program in reading, writing, and mathematics for eligible individuals who need to develop or improve their literacy skills to enhance 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 these] 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 [+] (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 [+] (9) Cultural and enrichment opportunities. [A
9 program of adult and community education that will]
10 Programs that meet the interests and desires of [these
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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1 (2) Who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable
2 to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak
3 English, at a level necessary to function on the job,
4 in the individual's family, or in society.

5 "Eligible individual" means an individual:

6 (1) Who has attained sixteen years of age;
7 (2) Who is not enrolled or required to be enrolled in
8 secondary school under state law; and

9 (3) Who:

10 (A) Is basic skills deficient;
11 (B) Does not have a secondary school diploma or its
12 recognized equivalent, and has not achieved an
13 equivalent level of education; or
14 (C) Is an English language learner.

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

19 (1) Whose native language is a language other than
20 English; or
21 (2) Who lives in a family or community environment where a
22 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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5

INTRODUCED BY:



6

BY REQUEST

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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.

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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.