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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CLIMATE EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in response to the  
2 growing threat of climate change, the State has set standards  
3 and launched initiatives to expand reliance on sustainable and  
4 efficient energy, including setting a statewide benchmark of  
5 generating one hundred per cent of the State's electricity  
6 through renewable resources by 2045 and establishing a goal for  
7 statewide greenhouse gas emissions to be at least fifty per cent  
8 below 2005 levels by 2030.

9           The legislature further finds that climate change education  
10 is necessary to ensure that the next generation are climate  
11 leaders. In 2024, Colorado enacted a law to award a seal of  
12 climate literacy diploma endorsement to students who complete  
13 certain courses and an experiential learning project.

14           The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of  
15 education to establish a climate literacy certificate program to  
16 provide students with an advanced understanding of climate  
17 change through academic coursework and hands-on learning.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Climate literacy certificate program. (a) The  
5 department may establish a climate literacy certificate program  
6 to prepare high school students in addressing the economic and  
7 social impacts of climate change.

8 (b) The department may:

9 (1) Establish program requirements and approved courses  
10 that include the completion of:

11 (A) At least two approved courses with climate  
12 literacy standards; and

13 (B) An experiential learning project;

14 (2) Issue a certificate of completion to every student  
15 upon satisfactory completion of the program; and

16 (3) Submit to the board and legislature a report on the  
17 approved courses and data on the issuance of program  
18 certificates.

19 (c) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
20 for the purposes of this section."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
4 the establishment of the climate literacy certificate program.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
6 education for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Education; Climate Change; Climate Literacy Certificate Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the Department of Education to establish a climate literacy certificate program to provide students with an advanced understanding of climate change through academic coursework and hands-on learning. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

