

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHER LICENSING.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 302A-804, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) The department's powers and duties under this subpart
4 shall be limited to:

5 (1) Hiring, except in emergency situations as described in
6 this chapter, licensed teachers to teach in their
7 fields of licensing;

8 (2) Reporting data annually to the board about the supply
9 of, and demand for, teachers in department schools,
10 including the identification of shortage areas,
11 out-of-field teaching assignments, number of
12 classrooms without a licensed teacher for a quarter or
13 more, numbers of teachers teaching out-of-field,
14 numbers and types of courses and classes taught by
15 out-of-field teachers, and numbers and types of
16 students taught by out-of-field teachers;



(3) On an emergency and case-by-case basis, hiring
unlicensed individuals; provided that:

(A) A list of the names, work sites, teaching
assignments, and progress toward licensing of
these individuals shall be reported to the board
and any changes shall be updated on a monthly
basis by the department;

(B) There are no properly licensed teachers for the
specific assignments for which the individuals
are being hired; and

(C) ~~[No individual may be employed by the department
on an emergency basis for more than three years;
provided that in the case of a declaration of a
state of emergency pursuant to section 127A-14,
the board, pursuant to its powers in section
302A-803(a)(18), may extend the three-year period
by authorizing an extension to complete licensing
requirements. During this time, the individual]~~
Any individual hired by the department pursuant
to this paragraph shall demonstrate active
pursuit of licensing in each year of



1 employment[+] through continuous and verifiable
2 progress toward satisfying licensing
3 requirements, including enrollment in an approved
4 teacher education program, completion of relevant
5 coursework, mentorship, application of necessary
6 credentials, or other method approved by the
7 board;

8 (4) Submitting an annual report to the board documenting:

9 (A) The number of emergency hires in department
10 schools by subject matter areas and by school;

11 (B) The reasons and duration of employment for the
12 emergency hiring enumerated in subparagraph (A);
13 and

14 (C) The department's efforts to address the shortages
15 described in subparagraph (A); and

16 (5) Providing any other information requested by the board
17 that is pertinent to its powers and duties."

18 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2125

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

2

INTRODUCED BY: Lyn DeCorte



S.B. NO. 2125

Report Title:

Teacher Licensing; Emergency Hire; Exemptions; Licensure Progress

Description:

Removes 3-year employment limit for unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis. Requires that unlicensed teachers hired on an emergency basis make continuous and verifiable progress toward satisfying licensing requirements.

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

