

## ACT 34

S.B. NO. 2120

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Certification of Principals and Vice-Principals.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of education currently has requirements for the certification of its principals and vice-principals. The legislature also finds that the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides educational funds for states that pursue educational reform and additional funds for those states that qualify for Race to the Top funds by advancing educational reform. One of the selection criteria for Race to the Top funds is providing alternative routes to certification for teachers and principals; however, section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, currently provides for one pathway to certification and exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of education to establish alternative routes to certification for principals and vice-principals. The alternative requirements shall meet the federal government's Race to the Top fund selection criteria.

SECTION 2. Section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**“§302A-605 Principals and vice-principals.** (a) Principals shall meet the department's certification requirements and shall have ~~[not less than]~~ at least five years of appropriate school-level experience ~~[of which]~~ including at least three years ~~[shall have been]~~ as a teacher.

(b) Vice-principals shall meet the department's certification requirements and shall have appropriate school-level experience as determined by the department.

~~[(c) On a case-by-case basis, the department may waive the certification requirements and school-level experience for vice-principal candidates with appropriate administrative experience. The department shall establish criteria and reasons for waivers pursuant to chapter 91.]~~

(c) The department shall establish alternative routes to certification for principals and vice-principals pursuant to rules adopted under chapter 91.

(d) For purposes of this section, “alternative routes to certification” has the same meaning as determined by United States Department of Education

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regulations for state applications for Race to the Top fund allocations under section 14001 of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as amended.”

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

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

(Approved April 19, 2010.)