

---

---

# 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 student exchange  
2 programs involving students in Hawaii's schools provide the  
3 opportunity to learn first-hand the diverse cultures of other  
4 countries of the world. These exchanges foster and sustain good  
5 relationship and cultural exchanges between foreign countries  
6 and the State of Hawaii. The State has a student exchange  
7 program with Japan's Okinawa Prefecture, which has demonstrated  
8 the benefits and cost-effectiveness of these programs over its  
9 fifteen year life.

10           Implementing a similar student and faculty exchange program  
11 between the State and its sister provinces in the Republic of  
12 the Philippines would provide more concrete and viable  
13 connection between the State and those provinces than a mere  
14 paper relationship. Officials in the Republic of the  
15 Philippines have express a strong interest in developing student  
16 exchange programs. The establishment of such a program at this  
17 time would be particularly appropriate since this year is the  
18 Filipino Centennial Celebration, celebrating the one hundredth



1 anniversary of the arrival of Filipinos to Hawaii and honoring  
2 the achievements and contributions Filipinos have made to the  
3 State. Hawaii and the Philippines have a long history of close  
4 relations and connections. A student and faculty exchange  
5 program between Hawaii and the Philippines would strengthen an  
6 already close cultural, social, and economic relationship  
7 between the State and the Philippines.

8 SECTION 2. The department of education, in consultation  
9 with the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools and the  
10 University of Hawaii, shall develop a student and faculty  
11 exchange program with the State's sister provinces in the  
12 Republic of the Philippines involving public and private schools  
13 in Hawaii and students and faculty in schools in the  
14 Philippines. The department shall also consult with the various  
15 Filipino communities and organizations in the planning and  
16 implementation of the exchange program. The program shall be  
17 implemented by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.

18 SECTION 3. The department shall submit a report to the  
19 legislature of its findings and recommendations on the creation,  
20 implementation, and maintenance of a student and faculty  
21 exchange program between Hawaii and the State's sister provinces  
22 in the Republic of the Philippines no later than twenty days



1 prior to the beginning of the regular session of 2007 and 2008,  
2 if necessary to update the legislature on the status of the  
3 program's intended implementation.

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

5

INTRODUCED BY:

Sen. A. Curbak

Perpe P. Abinsay, Jr.

Mauro G. Meyerson

[Signature]

JAN 25 2006



**Report Title:**

Education; Exchange Student and Faculty Program with Philippines

**Description:**

Directs the department of education, in consultation with a variety of other organizations, to develop and implement a student and faculty exchange program between Hawaii and the Philippines.

