

JAN 25 2006

S.B. NO. 2980

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# 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 State of Hawaii  
2 is currently experiencing an estimated \$10 billion boom in new  
3 construction that has created a critical shortage of qualified  
4 workers in the trades. Over the next several years, projections  
5 indicate that Hawaii will need between 10,000 and 26,000 more  
6 construction workers to meet industry demand. Moreover, some  
7 believe the labor shortage will only become more severe  
8 nationwide as the need for skilled workers increases on the  
9 hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast and in regions with housing booms.  
10 Officials at organizations representing the construction trades  
11 note that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the  
12 industry will need to add 100,000 jobs each year through 2012,  
13 while also filling additional 90,000 openings vacated largely by  
14 retiring baby boomers.

15           To meet the State's critical labor shortfall, one strategy  
16 of some trade organizations has been to plant seeds early in the  
17 minds of young people who may be interested in working in the  
18 trades as adults. One way to do this is through the development



1 of pre-apprenticeship programs designed to spark trade interest  
2 and appreciation at the high school level.

3 A highly attractive feature of a pre-apprenticeship program  
4 is two-fold: it provides high school students a head start on  
5 two-year post-secondary degrees, while at the same time allowing  
6 students to enter a post-secondary apprenticeship program at a  
7 higher, more qualified skill level. Entering an apprenticeship  
8 at a higher skill level could potentially mean an acceleration  
9 of the typical three- to five-year apprenticeship program, the  
10 individual's licensing period, and the entrance into the work  
11 force. Such training programs provide enormous benefit to the  
12 state by generating awareness among students who may not even  
13 have known such career options existed. These trade  
14 organizations hope to bolster the notion that becoming a  
15 plumber, carpenter, or an electrician can provide a successful,  
16 satisfying, and lucrative career.

17 The Construction Academy was created with just these goals  
18 in mind. The Department of Education launched the Construction  
19 Academy in the fall of 2005 in partnership with eight Hawaii  
20 public high schools: Kailua, Radford, Waipahu, Mililani, Kahuku,  
21 Pearl City, Waialua, and Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences on  
22 the Big Island. The program allows high school students to take



1 classes in various construction trades at their respective high  
 2 schools and, at the same time, earn credit towards an associate  
 3 degree at an affiliated community college. At this time, a  
 4 single community college, Honolulu Community College, is  
 5 affiliated with the Construction Academy program, the State's  
 6 primary training facility for the building trades. The 2005  
 7 Construction Academy class is comprised of 232 high school  
 8 students, eighteen teachers, and two traveling instructors.  
 9 This first class has generated such excitement and promise on  
 10 the high school campuses that Construction Academy organizers  
 11 hope to expand their program to include other public high  
 12 schools and community colleges, particularly on the outer  
 13 islands.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
 15 funds to expand the existing Construction Academy program to all  
 16 public high schools.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, or so  
 19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to  
 20 expand the existing Construction Academy program to all public  
 21 high schools, and to train high school instructors to develop

1 and teach a specific building and construction curriculum in  
2 conjunction with affiliated community college teachers.

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

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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**SB. NO. 2980**

**Report Title:**

High Schools; DOE

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to increase the number of public high schools participating in the Construction Academy training program, which allows high school students to take classes in various construction trades and earn credit towards an associate degree at an affiliated community college.

