
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 critical labor shortfall, the State needs a
16 multi-pronged strategy. The first part of the strategy is to
17 develop awareness and interest in the construction industry
18 while at the same time providing foundational education to



1 students. This can be accomplished through a pre-apprenticeship
2 program. The second part of the strategy involves ensuring that
3 a larger base of candidates can enter professional construction
4 training programs. This can be accomplished through expansion
5 of the state's apprenticeship training programs.

6 A highly attractive feature of a pre-apprenticeship program
7 is two-fold: it provides individuals with a head start on two-
8 year post-secondary degree degrees, while at the same time
9 allowing students to enter a post-secondary apprenticeship
10 program at a more qualified skill level. Having students enter
11 an apprenticeship program at a higher skill level will provide
12 the apprenticeship training program with a better candidate who
13 has a higher probability of success in making it through the
14 apprenticeship training, and therefore, a better qualified
15 entrant into the work force. Such training programs provide
16 enormous benefit to the State by generating interest and
17 awareness among individuals who may not even have known such
18 career options existed. Through a pre-apprenticeship program,
19 trade organizations hope to bolster the notion that becoming a
20 plumber, carpenter, or an electrician can provide a successful,
21 satisfying, and lucrative career.



1 The construction academy was created with just these goals
2 in mind. Honolulu community college and the department of
3 education launched the construction academy in the fall of 2005
4 in partnership with eight Hawaii public high schools: Kailua,
5 Radford, Waipahu, Mililani, Kahuku, McKinley, Pearl City, and
6 Waialua. The program allows high school students to take
7 classes in various construction trades at their respective high
8 schools, and at the same time to earn credits towards an
9 associate degree at an affiliated community college. The 2005
10 construction academy class was comprised of 232 high school
11 students, eighteen teachers, and two traveling instructors. The
12 first class has generated such excitement and promise on the
13 high school campuses that the construction academy organizers
14 hope to expand the program to include other public high schools
15 and community colleges, particularly on the neighbor islands.

16 The purpose of the construction academy is to develop
17 interest in the industry and to build a foundation of general
18 construction skills that prepares students for more in-depth
19 professional trades training.

20 At present, the apprenticeship training programs at the
21 University of Hawaii train approximately 3,000 apprentices each
22 semester in the construction trades. An expansion of the



1 construction academy allows for a larger number of interested
2 candidates entering the pipeline and an expansion of the State's
3 apprenticeship training programs.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
5 funds to expand the construction academy program and the
6 apprenticeship training program.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,500,000, or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to
10 expand the existing construction academy program from eight to
11 twenty-six public high schools, and to expand the apprenticeship
12 training programs at Honolulu community college, Hawaii
13 community college, Maui community college, and Kauai community
14 college, as follows:

15	Honolulu community college	\$2,970,675
16	Hawaii community college	\$1,186,907
17	Maui community college	\$ 960,222
18	Kauai community college	\$ 382,196

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
20 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
22 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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; makes appropriations to campuses. (SD1)

