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

16 To meet the critical labor shortfall, the State needs a
17 multi-pronged strategy. The first part of the strategy is to
18 develop awareness and interest in the construction industry



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

7 A highly attractive feature of a pre-apprenticeship program
8 is two-fold: First, it provides individuals with a head start
9 on two-year post-secondary degree degrees, while at the same
10 time allowing students to enter a post-secondary apprenticeship
11 program at a more qualified skill level. Having students enter
12 an apprenticeship program at a higher skill level will provide
13 the apprenticeship training program with a better candidate who
14 has a higher probability of success in making it through the
15 apprenticeship training, and therefore, a better qualified
16 entrant into the work force.

17 Second, these training programs are of enormous benefit to
18 the State by generating interest and awareness among individuals
19 who may not even have known such career options existed.
20 Through a pre-apprenticeship program, trade organizations hope
21 to bolster the notion that becoming a plumber, carpenter, or an-



1 electrician can provide a successful, satisfying, and lucrative
2 career.

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

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



1 At present, the apprenticeship training programs at the
 2 University of Hawaii train approximately three thousand
 3 apprentices each semester in the construction trades. An
 4 expansion of the construction academy allows for a larger number
 5 of interested candidates entering the pipeline and an expansion
 6 of the State's apprenticeship training programs.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
 8 funds to expand the construction academy program and the
 9 apprenticeship training program.

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

18	Honolulu community college	\$
19	Hawaii community college	\$
20	Maui community college	\$
21	Kauai community college	\$

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

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

SB2980, SD2

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. (SD2)

