

JAN 25 2006

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.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Shiranne Chun Lalilant*



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.

