
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 first-hand knowledge
2 of other cultures, along with learning opportunities in foreign
3 countries, can help prepare students to fully participate in
4 today's global economy. Additionally, Hawaii students and
5 faculty who participate in foreign exchange programs foster
6 goodwill, cultural interaction, and positive international
7 relationships between the State of Hawaii and foreign countries.

8 Currently, the State of Hawaii has a sister state
9 relationship with four prefectures in Japan: Fukuoka, Okinawa,
10 Hiroshima, and Ehime. The Hawaii-Okinawa Student Exchange
11 Program, which has been in existence for seventeen years, is an
12 example of a cost-effective and beneficial program that fosters
13 global awareness and cross-cultural exchange among today's
14 youth.

15 A similar exchange program between Hawaii and the
16 Philippines would strengthen an already mutually beneficial
17 relationship between Hawaii and the Philippines, with whom the
18 State has had a long history of cultural, social, and economic



1 ties. For example, the State of Hawaii in 2006 commemorated the
2 centennial of Filipino migration to Hawaii and officials from
3 the Republic of the Philippines have expressed a strong interest
4 in developing student exchange programs with Hawaii. The State
5 of Hawaii currently has a sister state relationship with five
6 provinces in the Philippines: Ilocos Sur, Cebu, Pangasinan,
7 Ilocos Norte, and Isabela.

8 The purpose of this Act is to develop a student and faculty
9 exchange program with Hawaii's sister provinces in the
10 Philippines to foster global awareness, promote cultural
11 exchange, and provide cross-cultural learning opportunities
12 among Hawaii's youth, faculty, and educational communities.

13 SECTION 2. The department of education shall develop,
14 plan, and implement a student and faculty exchange program with
15 Hawaii's sister state provinces in the Republic of the
16 Philippines. The department shall consult with the University
17 of Hawaii, the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and
18 various Filipino community organizations such as the United
19 Filipino Council of Hawaii, Filipino Chamber of Commerce,
20 Congress of Visayan Organizations, and others in the
21 development, planning, and implementation of the student and



1 faculty exchange program. The program shall be implemented no
2 later than the 2010-2011 school year.

3 SECTION 3. The department of education shall submit a
4 report to the legislature of its findings and recommendations on
5 the status of the development, implementation, and maintenance
6 of a student and faculty exchange program between Hawaii and its
7 sister provinces in the Republic of the Philippines no later
8 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
9 of 2009.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
13 development and implementation of a student and faculty exchange
14 program between Hawaii and its sister provinces in the Republic
15 of the Philippines.

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

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.
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INTRODUCED BY: John M. Wilson
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Report Title:

Education; Student and Faculty Exchange; Philippines;
Appropriation

Description:

Directs the department of education to develop and implement, in consultation with other educational and community organizations, a student and faculty exchange program between Hawaii and its sister provinces in the Philippines. Appropriates funds.

