
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Article XV, section 4, of the state
2 constitution provides that the State of Hawaii has two official
3 languages, Hawaiian and English. Article X, section 4, states
4 that the State shall promote the study of Hawaiian culture,
5 history, and language, and that the State shall provide for a
6 Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture, and
7 history in the public schools. There is a Hawaiian language
8 public education system, as well as a Hawaiian language college,
9 to provide for education through the use of the Hawaiian
10 language.

11 The legislature finds that the study and integration of
12 Hawaiian language and culture can offer Hawaii's youth a
13 valuable understanding of the cultural heritage, learning
14 preferences, and traditions of the State's host culture. The
15 legislature further finds that the learning of Hawaiian language
16 and Hawaiian culture must be deliberately integrated and further
17 encouraged.



1 The purpose of this Act is to promote, encourage, and
2 integrate the teaching of Hawaiian language and culture in
3 public schools by requiring all high school students to complete
4 at least one year of instruction in Hawaiian studies.

5 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

7 "(b) The department shall regulate the courses of study to
8 be pursued in all grades of the public schools it establishes
9 and operates, and classify them by methods the department deems
10 proper; provided that:

11 (1) The course of study and instruction shall be regulated
12 in accordance with the statewide performance standards
13 established under section 302A-201;

14 (2) All pupils shall be progressively competent in the use
15 of computer technology; ~~and~~

16 (3) The course of study and instruction for the first
17 twelve grades shall provide opportunities for all
18 students to develop competency in a language in
19 addition to English~~[-]~~; and

20 (4) Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the course
21 of study and instruction at the high school level



1 shall include at least one year of instruction in
2 Hawaiian studies.

3 The department shall develop statewide educational policies
4 and guidelines based on this subsection without regard to
5 chapter 91.

6 For the purposes of this subsection, the terms
7 "progressively competent in the use of computer technology" and
8 "competency in a language in addition to English" shall be
9 defined by policies adopted by the board. The board shall
10 formulate statewide educational policies allowing the
11 superintendent to exempt certain students from the requirements
12 of paragraphs (2) and (3) without regard to chapter 91."

13 SECTION 3. Section 302B-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

15 "(c) The local school board shall be the autonomous
16 governing body of its charter school and shall be responsible
17 for the financial and academic viability of the charter school,
18 implementation of the charter, and the independent authority to
19 determine the organization and management of the school, the
20 curriculum, virtual education, and compliance with applicable
21 federal and state laws[~~-~~]; provided that, beginning with the
22 2010-2011 school year, the course of study and instruction at



1 the high school level shall include at least one year of
2 instruction in Hawaiian studies.

3 The local school board shall have the power to negotiate
4 supplemental collective bargaining agreements with the exclusive
5 representatives of their employees."

6 SECTION 4. The board of education shall adopt policies to
7 require all high school students, beginning with the 2010-2011
8 school year, to satisfactorily complete at least one year of
9 instruction in Hawaiian studies, which may include classes in
10 Hawaiian language or Hawaiian culture, or both, as part of the
11 department of education's core curriculum requirements.

12 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Education; Hawaiian Studies; Core Curriculum

Description:

Requires students in public high schools to satisfactorily complete one year of instruction in Hawaiian studies as part of the department of education's core curriculum requirements.

