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# 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 when students drop  
2 out of high school, the consequences can negatively impact the  
3 quality of their lives and the economic prosperity of the  
4 communities in which they live. Many cities throughout the  
5 nation are also at a disadvantage if a skilled and educated  
6 workforce is not readily available.

7           The purpose of this Act is to establish a comprehensive  
8 dropout prevention strategy that better prepares at-risk  
9 students to meet Hawaii content and performance standards and  
10 complete high school graduation requirements.

11           SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall review  
12 best practices of schools in Hawaii and other states regarding  
13 dropout prevention programs and adopt a strategic plan that  
14 specifies strategies to improve high school completion rates and  
15 college and workforce readiness.

16           (b) The department shall submit a report of its findings  
17 and recommendations on best practices to the legislature not



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
2 session of 2009. The report shall:

- 3 (1) Identify any high performing and highly efficient  
4 dropout prevention programs;
- 5 (2) Identify the dropout prevention programs that have the  
6 most potential for success in Hawaii; and
- 7 (3) Recommend legislation or other actions necessary to  
8 implement a statewide dropout prevention program  
9 identified under paragraph (2).

10 (c) The strategic plan adopted by the department shall:

- 11 (1) Specify strategies to identify, support, and expand  
12 programs to improve high school completion rates and  
13 college and workforce readiness;
- 14 (2) Establish specific goals with which to measure the  
15 success of the strategies identified in paragraph (1)  
16 in improving high school completion rates and college  
17 and workforce readiness; and
- 18 (3) Identify strategies for alignment and coordination of  
19 federal and other funding sources that may be pursued  
20 for high school reform, dropout prevention, and  
21 preparation of students for postsecondary coursework  
22 or employment.



1 (d) The department shall submit a copy of the strategic  
2 plan to the legislature not later than twenty days prior to the  
3 convening of the regular session of 2009.

4 SECTION 3. (a) There is established a collaborative  
5 dropout reduction pilot program within the department of  
6 education. The superintendent of education may award grants to  
7 a school, complex, or district to coordinate services and  
8 programs among public, private, and nonprofit entities to:

9 (1) Reduce the number of students who drop out of school  
10 in that community; and

11 (2) Increase the job skills, employment opportunities, and  
12 continuing education opportunities of students who  
13 might otherwise have dropped out of school.

14 (b) The department shall determine the application  
15 criteria for receiving a grant under subsection (a). The  
16 criteria shall require a school, complex, or district that  
17 applies for a grant to collaborate with local businesses, other  
18 government or law enforcement agencies, nonprofit organizations,  
19 faith-based organizations, and institutions of higher education  
20 to deliver proven, research-based intervention services. The  
21 superintendent shall set standards for a collaborative  
22 agreement, including a requirement that a signed agreement



1 between an authorized school, complex, or district and an  
2 authorized representative of each of the other participating  
3 entities that are partners in the collaboration.

4 (c) The collaborative dropout reduction pilot program  
5 shall:

- 6 (1) Limit participation in the program to students  
7 authorized to participate by a parent or other person  
8 of standing in a parental relationship;
- 9 (2) Have as a primary goal a student's graduation from  
10 high school;
- 11 (3) Provide for local businesses or other employers to  
12 offer paid employment or internship opportunities and  
13 advanced career and vocational training;
- 14 (4) Include an outreach component and a lead educational  
15 staff member to identify and involve eligible students  
16 and public and private entities to participate in the  
17 program;
- 18 (5) Serve a population of students of which at least fifty  
19 per cent are identified as students at risk of  
20 dropping out who:
- 21 (A) Receive poor or failing grades in core academic  
22 subjects;



- 1 (B) Have low attendance rates or excessive
- 2 absenteeism;
- 3 (C) Fail to be promoted to the next grade level; or
- 4 (D) Are disengaged in the classroom setting and
- 5 exhibit motivational problems, disruptive
- 6 behaviors, or behaviors that warrant disciplinary
- 7 action;

8 (6) Allocate not more than fifteen per cent of grant funds  
9 and matching funds, as determined by the  
10 superintendent, for administrative expenses; and

11 (7) Include matching funds from any of the participating  
12 entities.

13 (d) The department shall develop procedures to administer  
14 the pilot program under this section.

15 (e) The department shall submit a report on the status of  
16 the collaborative dropout reduction pilot program to the  
17 legislature not later than ten days prior to the start of the  
18 regular session of 2009.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for



1 the dropout prevention pilot program pursuant to section 3 of  
2 this Act.

3 SECTION 5. (a) There is established an intensive  
4 technology-based academic intervention pilot program within the  
5 department of education. The superintendent of education may  
6 award grants to participating schools to provide intensive  
7 technology-based supplementary education in English,  
8 mathematics, science, or social studies to students in grades  
9 nine through twelve. Priority shall be given to students who  
10 may have been identified by the department as at risk of  
11 dropping out of school, as defined in section 3 of this Act.  
12 The goals of the program shall be to help students meet the  
13 Hawaii content and performance standards and complete high  
14 school graduation requirements.

15 (b) The department shall develop an application and  
16 selection process for selecting schools to participate in the  
17 program. All schools are eligible to participate in the program  
18 and receive grant funds. However, priority shall be given to a  
19 school that is located in a rural area and considered by the  
20 department of education to benefit significantly from  
21 technology-based supplementary instruction. The superintendent  
22 shall give priority to a school that offers a relatively limited



1 course selection to students, in comparison to the course  
2 selections generally offered to students in urban schools.

3 (c) A school selected to participate in the program is  
4 entitled to receive state grant funds in an amount not to exceed  
5 \$ each school year for each student in an eligible  
6 grade level served through the program. The state grant funds  
7 shall be used to provide technology-based supplemental  
8 instruction for students at the eligible grade levels. A  
9 participating school shall provide students with individual  
10 access to technology-based supplemental instruction for at least  
11 ten hours each week.

12 Permissible expenditures under the program include costs  
13 incurred to provide:

- 14 (1) Research-based instructional support;
- 15 (2) Teacher training;
- 16 (3) Academic tutoring or counseling;
- 17 (4) Distance learning opportunities that use the Internet  
18 and are aligned with the essential knowledge and  
19 skills requirements for the subject areas of English  
20 language arts, social studies, mathematics, science,  
21 and language other than English, as applicable; and



1           (5) Distance learning opportunities that enable students  
2           to earn college credit in the subject areas of English  
3           language arts, social studies, mathematics, science,  
4           or languages other than English.

5           (d) As a condition of receiving state grant funds, a  
6 school shall contribute additional funding in an amount equal to  
7 at least \$           each school year for each student in an  
8 eligible grade level served through the program. The additional  
9 funding required may consist of private funds or other state  
10 funds other than grant funds provided under this section.

11          (e) The department shall develop procedures to administer  
12 the pilot program under this section.

13          (f) The department shall submit a report on the status of  
14 the technology-based academic intervention pilot program to the  
15 legislature not later than ten days prior to the start of the  
16 regular session of 2009.

17          SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
20 the technology-based academic intervention pilot program  
21 pursuant to section 5 of this Act.





1 SECTION 7. (a) There is established a high school  
2 innovation grant initiative within the department of education  
3 for the purpose of awarding grants to implement innovative  
4 programs that are based on the best available research regarding  
5 high school reform, dropout prevention, and activities that  
6 prepare students for postsecondary coursework or employment.  
7 The superintendent of education is authorized to award grants to  
8 a school, complex, or district, which shall be used to:

- 9 (1) Enhance education practices that have been  
10 demonstrated by significant evidence of effectiveness;
- 11 (2) Align other grants and programs to the strategic plan  
12 adopted by the department of education under section 2  
13 of this Act; and
- 14 (3) Support technical assistance services for a school,  
15 complex, or district to implement an innovative, high  
16 school improvement program that falls within the  
17 general categories of high school reform, dropout  
18 prevention, and student preparation for postsecondary  
19 coursework or employment.

20 (b) Before awarding a grant to a school, complex, or  
21 district under this section, the department of education may  
22 require the school, complex, or district receiving the grant to:



1 (1) Obtain matching funds; or  
2 (2) Meet other conditions, including developing a personal  
3 graduation plan for each ninth grade student enrolled  
4 at the school, complex, or district receiving the  
5 grant.

6 (c) The department of education may accept and coordinate  
7 gifts, grants, or donations from private organizations and other  
8 available sources to implement an innovation program under this  
9 section. The department shall set out criteria for innovative  
10 programs; however, the programs must be directly linked to high  
11 school reform, dropout prevention, post secondary coursework, or  
12 workforce development.

13 (d) The department of education shall develop procedures  
14 to administer the grant initiative under this section.

15 (e) The department of education shall submit a report on  
16 the status of the high school innovation grant initiative to the  
17 legislature not later than ten days prior to the start of the  
18 regular session of 2009.

19 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for



1 the high school innovation grant initiative pursuant to  
2 section 7 of this Act.

3 SECTION 9. (a) There is established a pilot program  
4 within the department of education to provide grants to school  
5 complexes to fund student club activities for students at risk  
6 of dropping out of school. The grants for student clubs program  
7 shall be administered by the superintendent of education, who  
8 may award a grant in an amount not to exceed \$ in a  
9 school year to a school on behalf of a student club at a high  
10 school that is eligible under the criteria established in  
11 section (b).

12 (b) To be eligible for a grant, the student club and the  
13 club's sponsor shall be sanctioned by the school and the  
14 department. A grant awarded under this program shall be matched  
15 by other federal, state, or local funds, including donations, in  
16 an amount equal to the amount of the grant. A school shall seek  
17 donations or sponsorships from local businesses or community  
18 organizations to raise the matching funds. The superintendent  
19 of education may award a grant on behalf of more than one  
20 student club at a school in the same school year.

21 (c) The superintendent of education shall establish  
22 application criteria for receiving a grant under this section.



1 The criteria shall require confirmation that a school-level  
2 planning and decision-making committee and the appropriate  
3 district education official have approved a plan that includes

4 a:

5 (1) Description of the student club and a statement of the  
6 student club's goals, intent, and activities;

7 (2) Statement of the source of funds to be used to match  
8 the grant;

9 (3) Budget for the student club and a statement showing  
10 that the student club's finances are sustainable; and

11 (4) Any other information the department requires.

12 (d) The department of education shall establish the  
13 minimum requirements for a grant agreement, including requiring:

14 (1) The agreement to be signed by the sponsor of a student  
15 club receiving a grant and a school district  
16 administration official; and

17 (2) The student club and the district to participate in an  
18 evaluation of the club's program and the program's  
19 effect on student achievement and dropout rates.

20 (e) A student club may use funds awarded under this  
21 section to support academic or co-curricular club activities,  
22 other than athletics, in which at least fifty per cent of the



1 participating students have been identified as students at risk  
2 of dropping out of school as defined by section 3 of this Act.  
3 A student club may use funds for materials, sponsor stipends,  
4 and other needs that directly support the club's activities. A  
5 student club shall use the entire amount of the grant to  
6 directly fund the club's activities described in the plan  
7 approved pursuant to subsection (c); provided that a student  
8 club shall not use more than fifty per cent of a grant to pay  
9 sponsor stipends.

10 (f) The school district shall ensure that funds awarded  
11 under this section are expended in compliance with subsection  
12 (e). At the end of the school year, a student club that  
13 receives a grant shall submit a report to the superintendent  
14 summarizing the club's activities and the extent to which the  
15 club met the club's goals and achieved the club's intent.

16 (g) The department of education shall develop procedures  
17 to administer the grant initiative under this section.

18 (h) The department of education shall submit a report on  
19 the status of the grants for student club program to the  
20 legislature not later than ten days prior to the start of the  
21 regular session of 2009.



1 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to  
4 provide grants to school complexes to fund student club  
5 activities for students at risk of dropping out of school  
6 pursuant to section 9 of this Act.

7 SECTION 11. The superintendent of education shall contract  
8 with a qualified company to conduct a comprehensive program  
9 evaluation of each grant program in this Act. The annual  
10 evaluation shall begin initially in fiscal year 2009-2010 and  
11 every year thereafter. The evaluation shall be comprised of a  
12 process evaluation and an outcomes evaluation for each of the  
13 following programs:

- 14 (1) Collaborative dropout reduction pilot program;
- 15 (2) Technology-based academic intervention pilot program;
- 16 (3) High school innovation grant initiative; and
- 17 (4) Grants for student clubs program.

18 SECTION 12. The sums appropriated in sections 4, 6, 8, and  
19 10 shall be expended by the department of education for the  
20 purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



**Report Title:**

DOE; Dropout Prevention; Extracurricular Activities;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to establish a dropout prevention strategy that includes research, planning, programs, grants, and supplementary instruction for students at risk of dropping out. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

