
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 Hawaii continues to
2 have a critical shortage of trained teachers for the public
3 school system. Between 1999 and 2007, approximately fifteen
4 hundred new teachers were needed each year to fill the vacancies
5 created by retirement or attrition. In addition, the number of
6 new teachers graduating and getting licensed each year falls far
7 short of the actual demand.

8 The legislature finds that Hawaii's public school system is
9 in great need of energetic and competent teachers. Beginning in
10 2006, in order to help alleviate this chronic teacher shortage
11 and to help schools make significant academic progress by
12 introducing new ideas and teaching styles into classrooms, the
13 non-profit organization Teach For America began supplying
14 outstanding recent college graduates to the Hawaii department of
15 education. The program provides a teaching opportunity for
16 candidates who have degrees in subjects other than teaching but
17 want to give back to the community. These college graduates



1 commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools
2 and many become leaders in expanding educational opportunities.
3 This year, over one hundred twenty Teach For America corps
4 members, including twenty corps members who are establishing the
5 organization's first presence on the Big Island, are teaching
6 approximately ten thousand students in underserved schools in
7 Hawaii.

8 The following is a breakdown of the placement of Teach For
9 America teachers:

- 10 (1) Twenty per cent are elementary school teachers;
- 11 (2) Eighty per cent are secondary school teachers; and
- 12 (3) Fifteen per cent are special education teachers.

13 In America today, there are seven thousand three hundred
14 corps members teaching across the country, while seventeen
15 thousand Teach For America alumni continue working for the
16 fundamental changes necessary to ensure educational excellence
17 for all students. The legislature finds that Teach For America
18 acts not only as a teacher recruitment program that seeks to
19 attract college graduates to classrooms, but also as a catalyst
20 for change within the school systems to which they are assigned.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate a portion of the
2 department of education's annual operating budget for ten years
3 to support the perpetuation of Teach For America in Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§302A- Teach For America; funding, collective

8 bargaining. (a) The department shall expend \$ _____ of its
9 annual operating budget to support Teach For America's efforts
10 to address the teacher shortage in the State and help the
11 department achieve adequate yearly progress pursuant to the No
12 Child Left Behind Act, Public Law 107-110, in schools to which
13 Teach For America teachers are assigned. Moneys allocated to
14 Teach For America shall be used for the following purposes:

15 (1) Recruitment and selection of Teach For America corps
16 members for Hawaii schools;

17 (2) Professional development of Teach For America corps
18 members for Hawaii schools;

19 (3) Pre-service training of Teach For America corps
20 members for Hawaii schools; and

21 (4) Teach For America local program administration and
22 development including but not limited to salaries,



1 office expenses, rent, travel, research, and
2 insurance.

3 (b) Teachers hired by Teach For America to work in Hawaii
4 schools shall be subject to this chapter and chapter 89.
5 Whenever there are conflicts between chapter 89 and any
6 provisions in an agreement between Teach For America and the
7 State concerning teachers hired for the purposes of this
8 section, chapter 89 shall prevail."

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2010, and
11 shall be repealed on June 30, 2020.

12



Report Title:

Teach For America; Department of Education; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates a portion of the department of education's annual operating budget for ten years to support Teach For America in Hawaii to train, sustain, and prepare outstanding college graduates to become teachers in the Hawaii department of education. (SD1)

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