

JAN 21 2011

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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. In 2010, the board of education considered a  
2 proposal to increase the rigor of the existing optional board of  
3 education recognition diploma. The revised diploma requirements  
4 would help ensure that a student has established a strong  
5 academic foundation for success in college and in the workplace.  
6 According to the board of education's proposal, conditions that  
7 led to the proposal include:

8           (1) The department of education's ten-year strategic plan  
9           goal that all students complete certain requirements  
10           to obtain a college and career readiness diploma and  
11           be prepared for life after high school;

12           (2) A memorandum of agreement among the governor, the  
13           department of education, and the University of Hawaii  
14           in 2009 to significantly improve student achievement  
15           in Hawaii by using American Recovery and Reinvestment  
16           Act resources to advance education reform; and

17           (3) An indication by the department of education in its  
18           Race to the Top proposal to the federal government in



1           June 2010 that the board of education is scheduled to  
2           adopt a college and career readiness high school  
3           diploma for students entering high school in 2014.

4   Additionally, the legislature finds that the skills and  
5   abilities required of students for gainful employment and  
6   college entrance are increasing. According to the Georgetown  
7   University Center on Education and the Workforce, by 2018  
8   sixty-five per cent of Hawaii's jobs will require postsecondary  
9   education and training beyond high school. Despite these  
10   trends, Hawaii ranks forty-first in the nation in the percentage  
11   of recent high school graduates who attend college. Even among  
12   Hawaii's students who do go on to attend college, many are  
13   academically unprepared and require remediation.

14           Despite these compelling reasons, the board of education  
15   has yet to pass the proposal to offer the college and career  
16   readiness diploma. The legislature finds that Hawaii's public  
17   schools should encourage students and provide them with the  
18   opportunity to be better prepared for college and gainful  
19   employment.

20           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
21   education to establish high school diploma requirements that aim  
22   to establish college and career readiness.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- College and career readiness diploma. The  
5 department shall establish high school diploma requirements for  
6 each public school student for the completion of a rigorous high  
7 school academic program that aims to establish a strong academic  
8 foundation with the requisite knowledge and skills to prepare  
9 the student to:

- 10 (1) Enter postsecondary education or training programs,  
11 including degree or certification programs or an  
12 apprenticeship, without the need for remediation; and  
13 (2) Obtain, retain, and succeed in a career that offers a  
14 living wage and opportunities for advancement."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



**Report Title:**

College and Career Readiness; Diploma

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to establish high school diploma requirements that aim to establish college and career readiness.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

