

JAN 26 2011

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 education currently has requirements for the certification of
3 its principals and vice-principals. The legislature also finds
4 that the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
5 provides educational funds for states that pursue educational
6 reform and additional funds for those states that qualify for
7 Race to the Top funds by advancing educational reform. One of
8 the selection criteria for the Race to the Top funds is
9 providing alternative routes to certification for teachers and
10 principals. Although the legislature previously amended section
11 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow for the
12 establishment of alternative routes to certification, the
13 current requirement for a principal candidate to possess not
14 less than five years of appropriate school-level experience, of
15 which at least three years shall have been as a teacher, is too
16 restrictive and conflicts with the Race to the Top grant
17 requirements.

1 The purpose of this Act is to amend the current provisions
2 to allow principal and vice-principal candidates to be prepared
3 through alternate routes of certification that meet the federal
4 Race to the Top requirements.

5 SECTION 2. Section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§302A-605 Principals and vice-principals.** (a) Principals
8 shall meet the department's certification requirements and shall
9 have at least five years of appropriate school-level experience,
10 including at least three years as a teacher[-], or equivalent,
11 as determined by the department.

12 (b) Vice-principals shall meet the department's
13 certification requirements and shall have appropriate school-
14 level experience, or equivalent, as determined by the
15 department.

16 (c) The department shall establish alternative routes to
17 certification for principals and vice-principals pursuant to
18 rules adopted under chapter 91.

19 (d) For purposes of this section, "alternative routes to
20 certification" has the same meaning as determined by United
21 States Department of Education regulations for state

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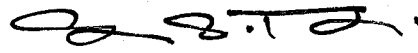
1 applications for Race to the Top fund allocations under section
2 14001 of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
3 2009, as amended."

4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: 

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BY REQUEST

SB. NO. 1283

Report Title:

Relating to the Certification of Principals and Vice-Principals

Description:

Amends section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to replace language regarding principal and vice-principal candidate qualifications that conflicts with the requirements of the Race to the Top grant.

SB. NO. 1283

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CERTIFICATION OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS.

PURPOSE: To amend the current law to replace language regarding principal and vice-principal candidate qualifications that conflicts with the requirements of the Race to the Top grant.

MEANS: Amend section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: Although the legislature in the last session amended section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow for the establishment of alternative routes to certification, the current requirement that an individual to possess not less than five years of appropriate school-level experience of which at least three years shall have been a teacher is too restrictive and conflicts with the Race to the Top grant requirements. This bill will add additional language that will allow the department to determine what would qualify as appropriate equivalent experience. Such a determination would be made through the administrative rule making process under chapter 91.

Impact on the public: This would allow other individuals who may not have three years as a teacher to potentially qualify to be certified as a principal or vice principal.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This legislation will ensure the Department will meet its obligations under the federal Race to the Top grant.

GENERAL FUND: N/A.

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OTHER FUNDS: N/A.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: EDN 400

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Department of Accounting and General
Services

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011.