

JAN 27 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that it has been a
2 continuous struggle for the department of education to place
3 teachers in schools having high turnover rates or determined as
4 hard-to-fill. As the department works to find long-term
5 solutions for teacher retention, one option to consider would be
6 to assist current educational assistants achieve the necessary
7 certification to be classified as teachers. A major barrier for
8 educational assistants to overcome in achieving teacher
9 licensure is the cost to enroll in certification programs.

10 The purpose of this Act is to:

11 (1) Establish the educational assistant certification
12 incentive program to enable educational assistants who
13 have been working in hard-to-fill schools to attain
14 teacher certification and then commit to return to
15 their communities and hard-to-fill schools as teachers
16 for a certain period of time; and



1 (2) Make an appropriation for alternate teacher route
2 contracts for teachers whose bachelor's degrees are
3 not in the field of education.

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

7 "§302A- Educational assistant certification incentive
8 program. (a) There is established within the department the
9 educational assistant certification incentive program to assist
10 educational assistants employed in the department to achieve
11 necessary teacher certification. The educational assistant
12 certification incentive program shall provide reimbursement for
13 tuition for accredited teacher certification programs.

14 (b) To be eligible for the educational assistant
15 certification incentive program, an educational assistant shall:

16 (1) Have been employed for a minimum of two years as an
17 educational assistant in a public school determined as
18 hard-to-fill by the department;

19 (2) Hold an associate's degree or higher from an
20 accredited educational institution;



1 (3) Have a letter of recommendation from the principal of
2 a public school determined as hard-to-fill by the
3 department, under whom the educational assistant has
4 worked;

5 (4) Be continuously enrolled in an accredited teacher
6 certification program and maintain a cumulative grade
7 point average of ; and

8 (5) Have completed an accredited teacher certification
9 program within two years of being accepted into the
10 program.

11 (c) Upon completion of the accredited teacher
12 certification program, individuals accepted into the educational
13 assistant certification incentive program shall commit to three
14 consecutive years of teaching at a school determined as hard-to-
15 fill by the department. Teachers who are returning to public
16 schools determined as hard-to-fill by the department at which
17 they were originally employed shall receive preference in
18 placement at those schools.

19 (d) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
20 91 to implement this section."



S.B. NO. 2782

1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
 4 educational assistant certification incentive program.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 6 education for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$870,000 or so much
 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
 10 alternate teacher route contracts.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 12 education for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: Michelle Tidoni

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S.B. NO. 2782

Report Title:

Educational Assistant Certification Incentive Program; Alternate Teacher Route Contract; Appropriation

Description:

Creates an incentive program for current educational assistants in hard-to-fill schools to attain teacher licensure if they commit to teaching for three years in a hard-to-fill school. Appropriates funds for the program and alternate teacher route contracts.

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