
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. Due to a variety of factors, Hawaii has long
2 suffered from a shortage of qualified public-school teachers.
3 This shortage not only continues but is worsening. Fewer
4 graduates from Hawaii teacher education programs are entering
5 the profession. According to the Hawaii State Teachers
6 Association, the number of graduates joining the department of
7 education fell by nearly thirty per cent, from five hundred
8 forty-five in the 2010-11 school year to three hundred eighty-
9 seven in the 2016-17 school year. Furthermore, four hundred
10 eleven public-school teachers resigned and left Hawaii in 2017,
11 compared to two hundred sixty-six in 2012 and two hundred
12 twenty-three in 2010.

13 In a presentation to the board of education on June 21,
14 2018, the Hawaii State Teachers Association testified that
15 teacher vacancies increased fifty-one per cent from 2011 and the
16 number of unlicensed teachers who do not meet state
17 qualifications rose sixty-three per cent from 2011.



1 Data released by the department of education on November
2 15, 2018, revealed that out of a total 13,437 teaching positions
3 in 2018, five hundred eight spots were filled by instructors who
4 had not completed a state-approved teacher preparation program.
5 An additional five hundred twenty-one spots were vacant as of
6 August 1, 2018. As a result, one thousand twenty-nine positions
7 statewide are not filled by highly qualified teachers.

8 In comparison, during the 2012-13 school year, out of a
9 total of 12,934 teaching positions, two hundred seventy-four
10 were filled by emergency hires and three hundred thirty-four
11 spots were vacant as of August 1, 2012, for a total of six
12 hundred eight positions not filled by certified teachers during
13 that school year.

14 The recent data reflects another long-term trend: teachers
15 leaving Hawaii has outpaced retirement as the top reason for
16 attrition in the last three years. During the 2017-18 school
17 year, four hundred twenty-three teachers left Hawaii for the
18 mainland, a seventy-one percent increase from five years ago.

19 The legislature finds that the University of Hawaii system
20 does not offer a sufficient number of classes in their major for
21 students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the field of



1 education, especially distance-learning classes. The
2 legislature further finds that this issue is a matter of
3 statewide concern that falls under its purview pursuant to
4 article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the University of
6 Hawaii to establish additional distance-learning classes in
7 teaching for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in
8 education.

9 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic
10 year, the University of Hawaii shall establish additional
11 distance-learning classes in teaching for students who are
12 pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

13 (b) No later than twenty days before the regular sessions
14 of 2021, 2022, and 2023, the University of Hawaii shall submit
15 interim reports to the legislature concerning its establishment
16 of additional distance-learning classes in teaching for students
17 who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, including:

18 (1) The number of additional distance-learning classes in
19 teaching that were made available, by academic
20 semester;



- 1 (2) The number of students enrolled in the additional
2 distance-learning classes in teaching, by academic
3 semester;
- 4 (3) The number of faculty needed to teach the additional
5 distance-learning classes in teaching, by academic
6 semester;
- 7 (4) The cost of establishing additional distance-learning
8 classes in teaching, by academic semester; and
- 9 (5) The effect that making these additional distance-
10 learning classes in teaching has had on decreasing the
11 shortage of qualified public-school teachers in
12 Hawaii.
- 13 (c) No later than twenty days before the regular session
14 of 2024, the University of Hawaii shall submit a final report to
15 the legislature concerning its establishment of additional
16 distance-learning classes in teaching for students who are
17 pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, including:
- 18 (1) The matters identified in sections (b) (1) to (b) (5);
19 and
- 20 (2) Any recommendations, including any proposed
21 legislation, regarding the establishment of additional



1 distance-learning classes in teaching for students who
 2 are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

3 (d) As used in this section, "distance learning" means a
 4 method of education in which lectures are broadcast or classes
 5 are conducted over the Internet and enrolled students are not
 6 required to attend lectures or classes at a physical campus of
 7 the University of Hawaii.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
 9 provided that this Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2023.

10

INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 398

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Distance-learning; Teaching

Description:

Requires the University of Hawaii system to create additional distance-learning classes in teaching for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

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