
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, according to the
2 National Center for Education Statistics, about 3.7 million
3 students are expected to graduate high school during the 2019-
4 2020 school year. According to the Georgetown University Center
5 on Education and the Workforce, whether high school students
6 enter the workforce immediately or pursue a postsecondary
7 education, they will all eventually face a job market where an
8 estimated sixty-five per cent of positions demand postsecondary
9 credentials. States striving to increase career readiness of
10 their students can ensure that career and technical education
11 offerings will lead to credentials most valued in each unique
12 workforce. An industry-recognized certification conveys a
13 student's career readiness because the credential validates the
14 competencies and skills required for success in a given
15 occupation or industry. According to the National Skills
16 Coalition, full-time employees with an industry certification
17 earn more than their counterparts with only a high school



1 diploma, and in some cases, the salaries of non-degree
2 credential employees were found to be similar to workers with
3 college degrees.

4 The legislature further finds that the State has critical
5 shortages of qualified local workers in sectors including
6 health, education, air travel, and technology. Due to the needs
7 of the State's economy, Hawaii's public high schools should
8 strategically prepare students for the workforce by encouraging
9 industry certification in "high value" occupations, including
10 jobs that have a high demand for competent and skilled
11 employees, high potential for growth, and high wages.

12 The purpose of this Act is to incentivize public high
13 school students to obtain industry certification in high value
14 occupations by requiring the department of education to
15 establish high value employment criteria for industry
16 certification awards to public high schools and to appropriate
17 funds to the department to carry out this purpose.

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



1 "§302A- Industry certification; awards. (a) The
2 department shall coordinate with the University of Hawaii system
3 and other relevant cross-sector partners, such as partners in
4 the P-20 Initiative and P-20 for Education programs, to develop
5 high value employment criteria for making industry certification
6 awards to public high schools. High value employment criteria
7 shall include occupations with high need of additional competent
8 and skilled employees, high growth potential, and high wages. .
9 High value employment criteria may also include pre-existing
10 cross-sector initiatives to achieve employment in certain
11 fields. In addition, the department shall consult with
12 employers in the State to obtain critical input about
13 competencies and skills that students need to attain in order to
14 succeed in high value employment occupations.

15 (b) The department shall request, and the department of
16 labor and industrial relations shall provide, an annual list of
17 occupations that meet the high value employment criteria and in
18 which an industry-recognized certification is required or will
19 materially enhance a job applicant's chances for employment or
20 compensation in that occupation.



1 (c) The department shall make the current annual list of
2 occupations received from the department of labor and industrial
3 relations available to all public high schools and to the public
4 on the department's website.

5 (d) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the
6 legislature and subsection (e), the department shall pay each
7 public high school an industry certification award calculated as
8 follows:

9 (1) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized
10 certification for an occupation meeting the high value
11 employment criteria;

12 (2) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized
13 certification that is recognized by any public
14 institution of higher learning in Hawaii as a basis
15 for academic credit in such institution; or

16 (3) \$100 for each student who earns an industry-recognized
17 certification that does not meet the criteria of
18 paragraph (1) or (2) but fulfills regional demands
19 identified by the most recent Hawaii Statewide
20 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy report.



1 (e) To be eligible for a public high school to receive
2 payment of industry certification awards:

3 (1) The high school shall have a recognized career and
4 technical education program with an advisory council;

5 (2) The student's industry certification selection shall,
6 in addition to meeting the high value employment
7 criteria, reflect regional labor market data on high
8 growth industry sectors and be broad enough to allow
9 entry into those industry sectors;

10 (3) Each industry certification selection shall be
11 nationally recognized, or shall be recognized in the
12 State as representing high quality and rigorous
13 standards in that industry; and

14 (4) The advisory council shall review and sign the
15 industry certification proposal and selection to
16 ensure that the student is aware that the
17 certification holds value to employers based in the
18 State.

19 (f) The public high school receiving payment of an
20 industry certification award shall allocate one hundred per cent
21 of that award to support or maintain the career and technical



1 educational program, including the payment of stipends for
2 instructors and the subsidization of fees for low-income
3 students to obtain the industry certification.

4 (g) The department shall prepare an annual report on the
5 progress made under this section including:

6 (1) The number of public high school students who are
7 seeking industry certifications for high value
8 employment;

9 (2) The industry certifications earned by students,
10 including the number of each type of certification
11 earned; and

12 (3) The number of public high school students who are
13 seeking or earning industry certifications and are
14 economically disadvantaged, English language learners,
15 or receiving special education services.

16 The department shall submit its annual progress report to
17 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
18 of the regular session of 2021 and every regular session
19 thereafter."

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
2 the department of education to implement the requirements set
3 forth in section 2 of this Act.

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

6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 22 2020



H.B. NO. 2508

Report Title:

Industry Certification Awards; Department of Education; Public High Schools; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes industry certificate awards and appropriates funds to the DOE to incentivize public high schools to encourage students to obtain industry-recognized certifications. Requires the DOE to submit an annual report containing specified information about the progress of the incentivization.

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