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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. 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 students to  
13 obtain industry certification in high value occupations by  
14 requiring the department of education and state public charter  
15 school commission to establish high value employment criteria  
16 for industry certification awards to schools.

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

20 "§302A- Industry certification; awards. (a) The  
21 department shall coordinate with the University of Hawaii system



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

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

19 (c) The department shall make the current annual list of  
20 occupations received from the department of labor and industrial



1 relations available to all public high schools and to the public  
2 on the department's website.

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

7 (1) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
8 certification for an occupation meeting the high value  
9 employment criteria;

10 (2) \$250 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
11 certification that is recognized by any public  
12 institution of higher learning in Hawaii as a basis  
13 for academic credit in such institution; or

14 (3) \$100 for each student who earns an industry-recognized  
15 certification that does not meet the criteria of  
16 paragraph (1) or (2) but fulfills regional demands  
17 identified by the most recent Hawaii Statewide  
18 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy report.

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



- 1       (1) The high school shall have a recognized career and  
2       technical education program with an advisory council;
- 3       (2) The student's industry certification selection shall,  
4       in addition to meeting the high value employment  
5       criteria, reflect regional labor market data on high  
6       growth industry sectors and be broad enough to allow  
7       entry into those industry sectors;
- 8       (3) Each industry certification selection shall be  
9       nationally recognized, or shall be recognized in the  
10       State as representing high quality and rigorous  
11       standards in that industry; and
- 12       (4) The advisory council shall review and sign the  
13       industry certification proposal and selection to  
14       ensure that the student is aware that the  
15       certification holds value to employers based in the  
16       State.
- 17       (f) The public high school receiving payment of an  
18       industry certification award shall allocate one hundred per cent  
19       of that award to support or maintain the career and technical  
20       educational program, including the payment of stipends for



1 instructors and the subsidization of fees for low-income  
2 students to obtain the industry certification.

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

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

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

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

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

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1       "§302D-       Industry certification; awards.       (a)       The  
2 commission 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 charter schools with grades nine through twelve. High  
7 value employment criteria shall include occupations with high  
8 need of additional competent and skilled employees, high growth  
9 potential, and high wages. High value employment criteria may  
10 also include pre-existing cross-sector initiatives to achieve  
11 employment in certain fields. In addition, the commission shall  
12 consult with employers in the State to obtain critical input  
13 about competencies and skills that students need to attain in  
14 order to succeed in high value employment occupations.

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

5        (d) Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
6 legislature and subsection (e), the commission shall pay each  
7 charter 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 charter school to receive payment  
2 of industry certification awards:

3       (1) The charter school shall have a career and technical  
4 education program;

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; and

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.

14       (f) The charter school receiving payment of an industry  
15 certification award shall allocate one hundred per cent of that  
16 award to support or maintain the career and technical  
17 educational program, including the payment of stipends for  
18 instructors and the subsidization of fees for low-income  
19 students to obtain the industry certification.

20       (g) The commission shall prepare an annual report on the  
21 progress made under this section including:



1        (1) The number of charter school students who are seeking  
2                    industry certifications for high value employment;

3        (2) The industry certifications earned by students,  
4                    including the number of each type of certification  
5                    earned; and

6        (3) The number of charter school students who are seeking  
7                    or earning industry certifications and are  
8                    economically disadvantaged, English language learners,  
9                    or receiving special education services.

10        The commission shall submit its annual progress report to  
11 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
12 of the regular session of 2021 and each regular session  
13 thereafter."

14        SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
17 the department of education to implement the requirements set  
18 forth in section 2 of this Act.

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

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1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Industry Certification Awards; Public High Schools; Charter Schools; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes industry certificate awards to incentivize public high schools and charter schools with grades nine through twelve to encourage students to obtain industry-recognized certifications. Requires the department of education and state public charter school commission to submit an annual report containing specified information about the progress of the incentivization. Appropriates funds. Takes effect on 7/1/2050.  
(HD1)

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

