
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the importance of a
3 quality education cannot be overstated. Significant research
4 has shown that the experiences of children and the environments
5 in which they develop have a lasting impact on their success
6 later in life.

7 The legislature further finds that the State faces a
8 critical shortage of workers in certain career fields. To
9 prevent disruptions in key sectors of our economy and to ensure
10 Hawaii's future prosperity, the State must implement programs to
11 connect youth to these high-demand career fields.

12 A profession in which the State faces a serious shortage of
13 qualified workers is teaching. The legislature finds that the
14 ability of the State to address the existing teacher shortage is
15 a matter of statewide concern.

16 Noting these issues, the legislature recognizes that there
17 is a demand for innovative programs that address the education



1 needs of our State. One example of such a program is Waipahu
2 high school's academy of professional and public services, a
3 career academy that works to increase student achievement
4 through authentic and rigorous experiences in a wide variety of
5 fields, including finance, hospitality and tourism, business
6 management, marketing, culinary arts, law and justice, and
7 teacher education. The academy partners with working
8 professionals to allow students to learn relevant, industry-
9 standard skills. For example, students participating in the
10 teacher education track of the academy are fully immersed in
11 actual classrooms two days per week, observing mentor teachers,
12 establishing relationships with students, developing lessons of
13 their own, and teaching classes. These opportunities give
14 prospective teachers a hands-on experience that they likely
15 would not receive otherwise until their senior year of college.
16 In addition, the program includes an early college component
17 that enables students to attain college credits while still
18 attending Waipahu high school. The experiences offered through
19 the academy help directly prepare students for success in higher
20 education and in their future careers. The legislature finds



1 that programs like Waipahu high school's academy of professional
2 and public services should be supported and expanded.

3 Programs having an early college component also provide the
4 State an opportunity to directly encourage youth to consider
5 careers in high-demand fields such as teaching. For example,
6 the State could expand accessibility to careers in these fields
7 by providing grants for high school students to enroll in
8 college courses that are directly applicable to degrees in high-
9 demand fields.

10 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii educator loan
11 program was established in 2001 to address the State's teacher
12 shortage by providing loans to students participating in teacher
13 education programs. Loan recipients who successfully complete
14 their teaching education program and go on to teach in a
15 position that meets the requirements of the program are eligible
16 for forgiveness of the loan. The legislature finds that
17 connecting graduates of Waipahu high school's academy of
18 professional and public services or similar programs at other
19 public schools with the Hawaii educator loan program could boost
20 participation in the Hawaii educator loan program and ultimately
21 help to ease the State's teacher shortage.



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1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish
2 initiatives at the department of education and the university of
3 Hawaii to expand opportunities for prospective future teachers
4 as a model that could be replicated for other high-demand career
5 fields in the future.

6 Specifically, this Act:

- 7 (1) Requires the department of education to establish a
8 pilot program that provides grants for high school
9 students to enroll in college courses through the
10 running start program or other similar programs that
11 allow high school students to earn college credits
12 during academic year 2020-2021; provided that
- 13 (A) The student is currently enrolled in a career
14 academy program focused on teacher education or a
15 similar field; and
- 16 (B) The courses in which the student intends to
17 enroll are applicable to the requirements for an
18 associate degree in teaching;
- 19 (2) Expands the eligibility of the Hawaii educator loan
20 program to include students who have completed a
21 teaching program at a career academy; provided that



1 the loan recipient agrees to teach for three years at
2 a public school in the State;

3 (3) Appropriates funds into and out of the Hawaii educator
4 loan program revolving fund; and

5 (4) Requires the department of education and university of
6 Hawaii to evaluate the efficacy of this Act and
7 provide the legislature with recommendations to:

8 (A) Expand collaborations between career academies
9 and the community colleges that encourage
10 students to consider, and facilitate the
11 preparation of students for, careers in high-
12 demand fields besides education; and

13 (B) Improve access to early college programs through
14 distance learning.

15 PART II

16 SECTION 2. As used in this Act, "career academy" means a
17 program at a department of education high school that:

18 (1) Allows students studying in cohorts to follow a
19 program of study in an academic or technical subject;

20 (2) Follows a college-preparation curriculum along a
21 career theme,



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- 1 (3) Includes the opportunity to enroll in early college
2 courses;
- 3 (4) Forges partnerships with employers, higher education
4 institutions, and the broader community; and
- 5 (5) Includes a sequenced, comprehensive work-based
6 learning component that:
 - 7 (A) Demonstrates to students the applications of
8 academic subjects to the career or college field
9 toward which they are working; and
 - 10 (B) Delivers work-based learning experiences,
11 including but not limited to shadowing, community
12 service, internships, mentoring, and
13 apprenticeships.

PART III

15 SECTION 3. The department of education shall establish a
16 pilot program that provides grants for high school students to
17 enroll in college courses through the running start program or
18 other similar programs that allow high school students to earn
19 college credits during academic year 2020-2021. The grants
20 shall cover the cost to enroll in the courses, including any



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1 fees, up to a maximum of credits each semester; provided
2 that:

3 (1) The student is currently enrolled in a career academy
4 program focused on teacher education or a similar
5 field; and

6 (2) The courses in which the student intends to enroll are
7 applicable to the requirements for an associate degree
8 in teaching.

PART IV

9
10 SECTION 4. Section 304A-701, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 **"§304A-701 Hawaii educator loans; eligibility; amounts;
13 educator loan forgiveness program; repayment; collection. (a)**

14 There is created the Hawaii educator loan program to be
15 administered by the University of Hawaii, in partnership with a
16 financial institution whose operations are principally conducted
17 in Hawaii, to provide financial support to students and teachers
18 who complete a state-approved teacher education program and who
19 [agree] meets the eligibility criteria in subsection (b).

20 (b) A person is eligible for the Hawaii educator loan
21 program if the person:



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1 (1) Agrees to teach as a full-time teacher for a period of
2 time to be determined by the university prior to the
3 award of a loan, in:

4 [~~+1~~] (A) The Hawaii public school system in a hard-to-fill
5 position including special education, regular
6 education shortage categories, or Title 1
7 schools, and in one of the following capacities:

8 [~~+A~~] (i) As an elementary school teacher teaching in
9 the field of elementary education who has
10 met standards as set forth by the Hawaii
11 teacher standards board; or

12 [~~+B~~] (ii) As a secondary school teacher teaching in
13 the subject area that is relevant to the
14 loan recipient's academic major as certified
15 by the department of education who has met
16 standards as set forth by the Hawaii teacher
17 standards board; or

18 [~~+2~~] (B) At a school located in a rural area in the State,
19 as determined by the superintendent of
20 education~~[+]~~; or



1 (2) Has successfully completed a program in teacher
2 education at a career academy and agrees to teach as a
3 full-time teacher for a period of at least three years
4 at a public school in the State after the student
5 completes the state-approved teacher education
6 program; provided that a preference shall be given to
7 students who agree to teach in a hard-to-fill position
8 including special education, regular education
9 shortage categories, or Title 1 schools.

10 Eligibility shall be determined by the university on a
11 competitive basis. The amount to be loaned to a student shall
12 be determined by the board of regents based on need for
13 financial aid and proof of acceptance into a state-approved
14 teacher education program at the university. The maximum amount
15 of loans that a student may receive under this program shall be
16 an aggregate amount equivalent to tuition payments and costs of
17 textbooks and other instructional materials necessary to
18 complete a state-approved teacher education program.

19 [~~(b)~~] (c) All loans made under this subpart shall bear
20 interest at five per cent simple interest. Repayment of
21 principal and interest charges shall commence one year after



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1 graduation or three months after a loan recipient ceases to be
2 enrolled in a state-approved teacher education program and shall
3 be paid in periodic installments within a seven-year period.
4 The university may charge late fees and all other reasonable
5 costs for the collection of delinquent loans.

6 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) The university shall adopt rules to implement
7 the educator loan program. The rules shall be adopted pursuant
8 to chapter 91, but shall be exempt from the public notice and
9 public hearing requirements.

10 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) Liability for repayment of a loan shall be
11 canceled upon the death or permanent total disability of the
12 borrower.

13 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) Upon a showing of proof that the loan recipient
14 has completed a state-approved teacher education program and for
15 each year that the loan award recipient teaches in the Hawaii
16 public school system pursuant to subsection ~~[(a)(1) or (2)],~~
17 (b), loan forgiveness shall be provided to the recipient as
18 follows:

19 (1) Ten per cent of the total amount of the loan award and
20 interest shall be waived every year for the first five
21 years of repayment; and



1 (2) Twenty-five per cent of the total amount of the loan
2 award and interest shall be waived every year for the
3 sixth and seventh years of repayment.

4 ~~(f)~~ (g) If a loan recipient who is a graduate of a
5 state-approved teacher education program subject to this section
6 and teaching pursuant to subsection ~~(a)~~ (b) fails to teach in
7 the Hawaii public school system for the minimum number of years,
8 as determined by subsection (b)(2) or by the university prior to
9 the loan, from the recipient's original date of employment with
10 the department of education, excluding temporary leaves of
11 absence, then the recipient shall repay any remaining loan
12 balance at the rate of ten per cent simple interest.

13 ~~(g)~~ (h) In accordance with chapter 103D, the university
14 may enter into written contracts with collection agencies for
15 the purpose of collecting delinquent loans. All payments
16 collected, exclusive of a collection agency's commissions, shall
17 revert, and be credited, to the Hawaii educator loan program
18 revolving fund. A collection agency that enters into a written
19 contract with the university for the collection of delinquent
20 loans pursuant to this section may collect a commission from the



1 debtor in accordance with the terms of, and up to the amounts
2 authorized in, the written contract.

3 (i) As used in this section, "career academy" means a
4 program at a department of education high school that:

5 (1) Allows students studying in cohorts to follow a
6 program of study in an academic or technical subject;

7 (2) Follows a college-preparation curriculum along a
8 career theme,

9 (3) Includes the opportunity to enroll in early college
10 courses;

11 (4) Forges partnerships with employers, higher education
12 institutions, and the broader community; and

13 (5) Includes a sequenced, comprehensive work-based
14 learning component that:

15 (A) Demonstrates to students the applications of
16 academic subjects to the career or college field
17 toward which they are working; and

18 (B) Delivers work-based learning experiences,
19 including but not limited to shadowing, community
20 service, internships, mentoring, and
21 apprenticeships."



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1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State the sum of \$ or so much thereof
3 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be deposited
4 into the Hawaii educator loan program revolving fund.

5 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii
6 educator loan program revolving fund the sum of \$ or
7 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
8 be used for the Hawaii educator loan program.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
10 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

11 PART V

12 SECTION 7. The department of education and the university
13 of Hawaii shall each submit a report to the legislature, no
14 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
15 sessions of 2021 and 2022, that includes:

- 16 (1) An accounting of the expenditure of funds appropriated
17 by this Act, including the number of students who
18 participated in the programs established or expanded
19 by this Act;
- 20 (2) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed
21 legislation;



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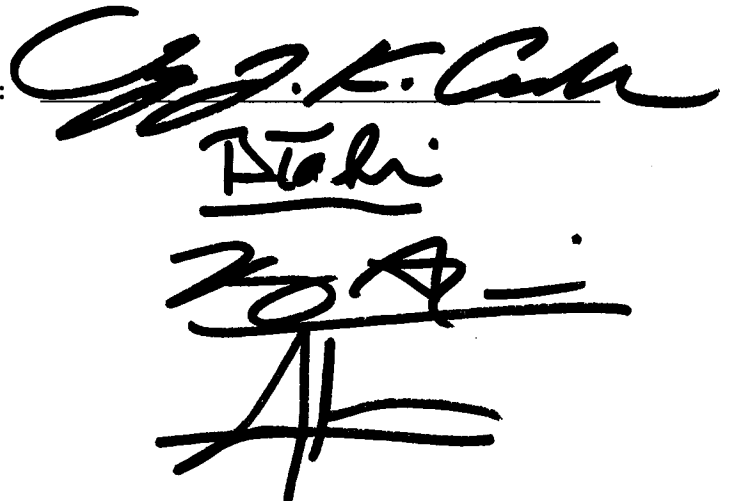
- 1 (3) A recommendation to continue, expand, or dissolve the
- 2 pilot program established by section 3 of this Act;
- 3 (4) Recommendations to expand collaborations between
- 4 career academies and the community colleges, including
- 5 early college programs, that encourage students to
- 6 consider, and facilitate the preparation of students
- 7 for, careers in high-demand fields besides education;
- 8 and
- 9 (5) Recommendations to improve access to the running start
- 10 dual credit program established pursuant to section
- 11 304A-803, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or similar early
- 12 college programs through distance learning.

13 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

16

INTRODUCED BY:


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Report Title:

Education; DOE; UH; Teachers; Grants for Early College; Career Academies; Hawaii Educator Loan Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to establish a pilot program that provides grants for high school students enrolled in a career academy program to enroll in college courses through the running start program or other similar programs that allow students to earn college credits that are applicable to the requirements for an associate degree in teaching. Expands the eligibility criteria for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program to include students who have graduated from a career academy; provided that the loan recipient agrees to teach for three years at a public school in the State. Appropriates funds into and out of the Hawaii educator loan program revolving fund. Requires reports to Legislature.

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

