

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, despite having a  
2 high school graduation rate of eighty-one per cent, only  
3 fifty-six per cent of Hawaii's public school graduates continued  
4 on to post-secondary education in 2015. The legislature further  
5 finds that high school students in Hawaii would benefit from  
6 aligning educational curriculum to workforce readiness. This  
7 alignment depends upon close collaboration between the public  
8 school system, a community college, and one or more industry  
9 employers near a school complex. A workforce readiness program  
10 would ensure that students receive the industry-based skills and  
11 certification required for employment after graduation.

12           The legislature additionally finds that collaboration  
13 between educators and industry employers will enable students to  
14 graduate from high school with a diploma and an  
15 industry-recognized associate's degree. Students may also earn  
16 pre-apprenticeship certificates and other industry-recognized  
17 certificates in addition to their associate's degree. The



1 legislature also finds that similar educational models in  
2 Connecticut, Illinois, and New York are showing promise in  
3 graduating more high school students with career-ready skills  
4 that meet workforce needs.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish a workforce  
6 readiness program within the department of education.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to subpart C of part II to be  
9 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

10 **"§302A- Workforce readiness program; establishment.**

11 (a) There is established within the department a workforce  
12 readiness program.

13 (b) The department shall designate schools, including the  
14 community school for adults, to participate in the program.

15 (c) Workforce readiness program schools shall:

16 (1) Include grades nine through twelve;

17 (2) Provide opportunities for students to earn

18 pre-apprenticeship certificates and other

19 industry-recognized certificates that assess and

20 document student readiness for a wide range of jobs in

21 addition to an associate's degree; and



1       (3) Integrate high school courses and certificate or  
 2       license programs that are based on current and  
 3       projected industry standards and focused on science,  
 4       technology, engineering, and mathematics with  
 5       mentoring, job shadowing, internships,  
 6       pre-apprenticeship training, and other workplace  
 7       education experiences.

8       (d) The department shall coordinate with the department of  
 9       labor and industrial relations, as needed, and enter into  
 10       contracts with industry employers located near workforce  
 11       readiness program schools, as appropriate, to develop and  
 12       implement the workforce readiness program.

13       (e) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
 14       91 to effectuate the purposes of this section."

15       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
 18 purposes of this Act, including funding for:

19       (1) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) educational  
 20       specialist II positions; and



1           (2) Seven full-time equivalent (7.0 FTE) district office  
2           teacher positions.

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

5           SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2051.



**Report Title:**

Workforce Readiness School Program; DOE; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a Workforce Readiness Program within the Department of Education to allow students to graduate from an extended high school enrollment with an industry-recognized associate's degree to complement the student's high school diploma. Appropriates moneys to develop and implement the program, including (2.0) FTE Educational Specialist II staff positions and (7.0) FTE District Office Teachers. Effective 7/1/2051. (HD1)

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

