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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 families in Hawaii  
2 have been negatively affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The  
3 legislature also finds that Hawaii has received federal stimulus  
4 funds to ensure students are able to effectively continue  
5 learning. These federal stimulus funds include moneys from the  
6 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund  
7 established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic  
8 Security Act, Public Law 116-136, and the Coronavirus Response  
9 and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, Public Law 116-260.

10       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate federal moneys  
11 received by the State to the department of education to  
12 establish and administer the strong students grant pilot  
13 program.

14       SECTION 2. For the purposes of this Act:

15       "Assessment" means an examination or other objective  
16 evaluation of a student's academic performance, academic  
17 engagement, or college or career readiness.



1 "Contractor" means an individual or entity with whom the  
2 department enters into a contract for the purpose of performing  
3 a program function.

4 "Department" means the department of education.

5 "Eligible education expenses" means:

- 6 (1) Computer hardware, internet access, or other  
7 technological devices or services that are primarily  
8 used to meet a participant's educational needs;
- 9 (2) Textbooks, curriculum, or other instructional  
10 materials, including educational software and  
11 applications;
- 12 (3) Fees for national standardized assessments, advanced  
13 placement examinations, examinations related to  
14 college or university admissions, or industry-  
15 recognized certification examinations;
- 16 (4) Therapies including but not limited to occupational,  
17 behavioral, physical, speech-language, and audiology  
18 therapies, or other services or therapies specifically  
19 approved by the department; and
- 20 (5) Supplemental education services.



1 "Eligible student" means a student attending a public  
2 school in grades kindergarten through twelve.

3 "Grant" means an award of \$1,000 that shall be used for  
4 eligible education expenses.

5 "Grant distribution platform" means a device through which  
6 grant funds are transferred from the department to the parents  
7 of participants.

8 "Parent" means a parent or legal guardian of an eligible  
9 student or a participant.

10 "Participant" means an eligible student for whom a grant is  
11 awarded under the program.

12 "Program" means the strong students grant pilot program.

13 "Public school" means a department school governed by  
14 chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or a public charter  
15 school governed by chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 SECTION 3. (a) No later than , the department  
17 shall establish and administer the strong students grant pilot  
18 program to provide grants for eligible education expenses to  
19 eligible students who qualify for a grant under the program.

20 (b) To administer the program, the department shall:



(1) Establish a grant application process for parents of eligible students who apply for the program;

(2) Select a third party to build a grant distribution platform;

(3) Administer or select a third party to administer the grant distribution platform; and

(4) Subject to appropriation, award grants to qualified students under this Act.

(c) The department may:

(1) Retain other contractors as necessary to administer the program and delegate program functions to the contractors; and

(2) Take other actions as necessary to establish, administer, and enforce the provisions of this Act.

(d) The awarding of grants shall be made to eligible students in the following order of preference and shall be contingent on department of taxation verification of the tax information submitted by the parent:

(1) Eligible students whose families have an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less;



(2) Starting on September 15 of each calendar year,  
eligible students whose families have an annual gross  
income of \$75,000 or less; and

(3) Starting on November 1 of each calendar year, to all  
other eligible students on a first come, first served  
basis until all available program funds are awarded;  
provided that applications for program grants shall not be  
accepted after December 1 of each calendar year.

(e) Notification of grant awards for eligible students  
under subsection (d)(1) shall be made within thirty days from  
the department's receipt of the application from the parent of  
the eligible student. Grant funds under subsection (d)(1) shall  
be made available for participants' use as soon as practicable  
but no more than thirty days after notification of the grant award.

(f) Prior to the award of a grant, the parent of a  
participant shall agree to verify compliance with the program  
requirements.

(g) If a parent of a participant is found to misuse grant  
funds, then neither the parent nor another parent of the  
participant living in the same household may apply for any



1 future program grants; provided that a parent may appeal the  
2 finding of misuse to the department.

3 (h) Grant funds under the program shall be expended in the  
4 fiscal year in which the funds are awarded and shall only be  
5 used for eligible education expenses. Any unused funds at the  
6 end of a fiscal year shall revert to the state general fund.

7 SECTION 4. (a) The department shall submit a report to  
8 the legislature on its efforts to establish the strong students  
9 grant pilot program established by this Act, including any  
10 findings and recommendations, no later than twenty days prior to  
11 the convening of the regular session of 2023.

12 (b) The department shall submit a report to the  
13 legislature on its efforts to implement the strong students  
14 grant pilot program established by this Act, including any  
15 findings and recommendations, no later than twenty days prior to  
16 the convening of the regular session of 2024.

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the Elementary and  
18 Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund moneys received by the  
19 State from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security  
20 Act, Public Law 116-136, and the Coronavirus Response and Relief  
21 Supplemental Appropriations Act, Public Law 116-260, the sum of



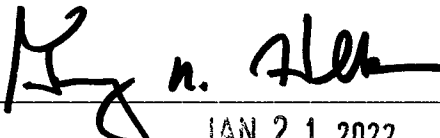
1       \$                   or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2   year 2022-2023 for establishing and administering the strong  
3   students grant pilot program established by this Act.

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

6       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
7   provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 21 2022



# H.B. NO. 1834

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Strong Students Grant Pilot Program;  
Federal Stimulus Funds; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the DOE to establish and administer the strong students grant pilot program to provide grants for eligible education expenses to eligible students. Requires the DOE to submit progress reports to the legislature prior to the 2023 and 2024 regular sessions. Appropriates funds received by the State from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, for the pilot program.

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

