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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that due to a variety of  
2 factors, Hawaii has long suffered from a shortage of qualified  
3 public school teachers. This shortage not only continues but is  
4 worsening. Fewer graduates from Hawaii teacher education  
5 programs are entering the profession. According to the Hawaii  
6 State Teachers Association, the number of graduates joining the  
7 department of education fell by nearly thirty per cent, from  
8 five hundred forty-five in the 2010-2011 school year to three  
9 hundred eighty-seven in the 2016-2017 school year. Furthermore,  
10 four hundred eleven public school teachers resigned and left  
11 Hawaii in 2017, compared to two hundred sixty-six in 2012 and  
12 two hundred twenty-three in 2010.

13       In a presentation to the board of education on June 21,  
14 2018, the Hawaii State Teachers Association testified that  
15 teacher vacancies increased fifty-one per cent from 2011 and the  
16 number of unlicensed teachers who do not meet state  
17 qualifications rose sixty-three per cent from 2011.



1 Data released by the department of education on  
2 November 15, 2018, revealed that out of a total 13,437 teaching  
3 positions in 2018, five hundred eight spots were filled by  
4 instructors who had not completed a state-approved teacher  
5 preparation program. An additional five hundred twenty-one  
6 spots were vacant as of August 1, 2018. As a result, one  
7 thousand twenty-nine positions statewide were not filled by  
8 highly qualified teachers.

9 In comparison, during the 2012-13 school year, out of a  
10 total of 12,934 teaching positions, two hundred seventy-four  
11 were filled by emergency hires and three hundred thirty-four  
12 spots were vacant as of August 1, 2012, for a total of six  
13 hundred eight positions not filled by certified teachers during  
14 that school year.

15 Recent data reflects another long-term trend: teachers  
16 leaving Hawaii or resigning for other non-retirement reasons has  
17 outpaced retirement as the top reason for attrition in the last  
18 three years. During the 2020-2021 school year, seven hundred  
19 seventy-one teachers resigned for non-retirement reasons,  
20 compared with six hundred seventy-four in 2019-2020 and seven  
21 hundred fifty-five in 2018-2019. Another four hundred twenty-



1 eight teachers retired in the 2020-2021 school year, compared  
2 with two hundred eighty-seven in 2019-2020, two hundred seventy-  
3 four the year before that, and two hundred seventy-five in 2017-  
4 2018.

5 All told, 1,199 teachers separated from the department of  
6 education in the 2020-2021 school year, compared to nine hundred  
7 sixty-one in 2019-2020.

8 The legislature additionally finds that the University of  
9 Hawaii system does not offer a sufficient number of classes for  
10 students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the field of  
11 education, especially on the neighbor islands where the  
12 shortages are most severe. The legislature further finds that  
13 this issue is a matter of statewide concern that falls under its  
14 purview pursuant to article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State  
15 Constitution.

16 The purpose of this Act is to require the University of  
17 Hawaii to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs in  
18 each county for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees  
19 in education.

20 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic  
21 year, the University of Hawaii shall establish K-12 expanded



1 teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are  
2 pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

3 (b) No later than twenty days before the regular sessions  
4 of 2023, 2024, and 2025, the University of Hawaii shall submit  
5 interim reports to the legislature concerning its establishment  
6 of K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs in each county for  
7 students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education,  
8 including:

9 (1) The number of additional programs in teaching that  
10 were made available, by academic semester;

11 (2) The number of students enrolled in the additional  
12 programs in teaching, by academic semester;

13 (3) The number of faculty needed to teach the additional  
14 programs in teaching, by academic semester;

15 (4) The cost of establishing additional programs in  
16 teaching, by academic semester; and

17 (5) The effect that making these additional programs in  
18 teaching has had on decreasing the shortage of  
19 qualified public-school teachers in Hawaii.

20 (c) No later than twenty days before the regular session  
21 of 2026, the University of Hawaii shall submit a final report to



1 the legislature concerning its establishment of K-12 expanded  
2 teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are  
3 pursuing undergraduate degrees in education, including:

4 (1) The matters identified in paragraphs (b)(1) through  
5 (b)(5); and

6 (2) Any recommendations, including any proposed  
7 legislation, regarding the establishment of additional  
8 teaching programs for students who are pursuing  
9 undergraduate degrees in education.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
11 provided that this Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2026.



# S.B. NO. 2359 S.D. 1 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Expanded Programs; Degrees in Education

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii to establish K-12 expanded teaching cohort programs in each county for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. Requires interim reports to the legislature prior to the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, and 2025, and a final report prior to the regular session of 2026. Repeals 12/31/2026. (HD1)

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

