
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FOR A VIRTUAL SCHOOL.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the coronavirus
5 disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic caused unprecedented disruption
6 for businesses and communities. For schools, the disruption
7 began on March 15, 2020, when the department of education
8 extended spring break as a precaution to provide for the safety
9 of its staff and students. Subsequently, on March 22, 2020, the
10 mayor of the city and county of Honolulu issued emergency order
11 no. 2020-02 that required all individuals in the city to stay at
12 home and to work from home except for certain essential
13 activities and work to provide essential government operations.

14 During the stay-at-home order, the department of education
15 continued to provide educational services to students through a
16 distance learning format that would allow students to continue



1 their education despite not being able to attend school in
2 person. Teachers were required to provide curriculum, content,
3 and enrichment through a variety of means including online
4 videos, assignments, tutorials, and virtual meetings. The
5 department of education purchased computers, devices, and
6 wireless hotspots that were distributed to students across the
7 State to ensure equity of access to the virtual content that was
8 being created. This herculean effort allowed for education to
9 continue through the end of the 2020 school year without
10 jeopardizing the health and safety of students and staff.

11 The legislature further finds that with the development of
12 a vaccine and with proper safety measures in place, the
13 department of education has been able to resume in-person
14 education. However, the disruption caused by the pandemic has
15 made it clear that some of the practices employed to allow for
16 distance learning should continue. While in-person education
17 overall has shown to be more effective for students, it has
18 become clear that an option to attend school virtually should be
19 made available for those for whom an in-person education would
20 prove to be too difficult.

21 The purpose of this Act is to:



(1) Appropriate funds for fiscal year 2021-2022 to build a virtual school to allow for distance learning; and

(2) Authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of renovations and electrical upgrades for a virtual school for the department of education.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 for the purpose of building a virtual school to allow for distance learning.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education.

SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2021-2022 for the purpose of renovations and electrical upgrades for a virtual school for the department of education.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education.



1 SECTION 5. The appropriation made for the capital
2 improvement project authorized by section 4 of this Act shall
3 not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the
4 appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the
5 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as
6 of that date.

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



Report Title:

DOE; Virtual School; Appropriation

Description:

Provides an emergency appropriation for a Department of Education virtual school and authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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