

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that civic engagement  
2 provides an opportunity for residents to become involved with  
3 improving their local communities and neighborhoods. In 2021,  
4 the Hawaii supreme court enacted Rule 23 to establish the  
5 commission to promote and advance civic education (PACE  
6 commission). One of the main functions of the PACE commission  
7 is to provide leadership, oversight, and initiatives to increase  
8 civic education in the community and at schools, increase  
9 citizens' knowledge about government, and promote informed  
10 participation in government and democracy in the State.

11           The legislature further finds that the public access room,  
12 an office under the legislative reference bureau, provides the  
13 public with information, equipment, facilities, and services to  
14 assist in research activities, educational outreach, and public  
15 engagement related to work with the legislature. The  
16 legislature additionally finds that the public access room is  
17 well-positioned to further civic engagement between the



1 legislature and students in the State through educational  
2 partnerships, such as the Hawaii P-20 partnerships for  
3 education. However, the public access room currently lacks  
4 resources to provide outreach services beyond its current  
5 efforts.

6 In addition, the legislature finds that civic education  
7 prepares students to participate in the public and political  
8 lives of their communities. Teaching students about the  
9 importance of civic engagement through civic education helps  
10 develop critical thinking skills that are vital to the  
11 functioning of a democratic nation, including how to recognize  
12 social problems, evaluate possible solutions to problems,  
13 separate evidence-based claims from opinions, and act upon what  
14 is learned.

15 The legislature further finds that according to the US  
16 Elections Project, in the 2022 general election, forty-four  
17 states had a higher voter turnout percentage than Hawaii. The  
18 legislature also finds that cultivating social and political  
19 engagement among students through civic education is an  
20 important strategy to increase voter turnout and citizen  
21 engagement over the long term.



1           The legislature additionally finds that in 2018, the board  
2 of education adopted the Hawaii core standards in social  
3 studies. These core standards outline the content, concepts,  
4 and inquiry skills students need to reason, wonder, and think  
5 about the vastness and richness of the human condition. The  
6 Hawaii core standards in social studies also integrate and  
7 encompass the democratic values, civility, and global  
8 perspective needed to support the development of critical  
9 thinking and habits of mind that are the hallmark of a mature,  
10 community-minded citizen. The standards are also premised upon  
11 a rigorous and relevant K-12 social studies experience.  
12 However, the legislature finds that the department of education  
13 has not engaged in systematic teacher training on the new  
14 standards or addressed the paucity of culturally appropriate  
15 materials for historical and civic education.

16           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

17           (1) Require the public access room to establish and  
18           maintain an outreach and engagement program for  
19           primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community  
20           education and provide funding for one full-time



- 1           equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in  
2           effectuating this requirement;
- 3           (2) Require the department of education and university of  
4           Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with  
5           the public access room with respect to the outreach  
6           and engagement program;
- 7           (3) Establish and fund two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)  
8           permanent civic education resource teacher positions  
9           within the department of education; and
- 10          (4) Appropriate funds to the department of education to  
11          increase access to civic education in Hawaii's public  
12          school system.

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

16           "§302A-           Coordination with the public access room;  
17           outreach and engagement.   The department shall assign  
18           appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room with  
19           respect to the outreach and engagement program described in  
20           section 21G-2(a)."



# H.B. NO. 1587

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart G, to be  
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4 "§304A- Coordination with the public access room;  
5 outreach and engagement. The university shall assign  
6 appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room with  
7 respect to the outreach and engagement program described in  
8 section 21G-2(a)."

9 SECTION 4. Section 21G-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

11 "(a) There is established in the state capitol a public  
12 access room in which members of the public shall be allowed to  
13 utilize various equipment, services, and facilities to enhance  
14 their ability to participate in the legislative process. As  
15 part of its duties, the public access room shall establish and  
16 maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary,  
17 secondary, post-secondary, and community education."

18 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to



1 establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position within the  
2 public access room.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative  
4 reference bureau for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
8 the expansion of civic education in public schools, including  
9 professional development and classroom resources related to the  
10 Hawaii core standards in social studies, and the establishment  
11 of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent civic education  
12 resource teacher positions.

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

15 SECTION 7. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
16 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
18 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
19 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
20 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
21 appropriations contained in this Act will cause the general fund



# H.B. NO. 1587

1 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
 2 exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. The combined total  
 3 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
 4 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
 5 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
 6 \$                    or                    per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
 7 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 8            (1) The appropriations made in this Act are necessary to
- 9                    serve the public interest; and
- 10           (2) The appropriations made in this Act meet the needs
- 11                    addressed by this Act.

12 SECTION 8. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

14

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Amy Powers*

JAN 16 2024



# H.B. NO. 1587

**Report Title:**

Civic Engagement; Educational Outreach and Engagement Program; Resource Teacher; DOE; LRB; PAR; Appropriations; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Requires the public access room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education. Requires the department of education and university of Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the public access room for the outreach and engagement program. Establishes two full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions. Appropriates funds to the legislative reference bureau for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement. Appropriates funds to the department of education for the expansion of civic education in the public schools.

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

