
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 K-12 education plays
2 a critical role in preparing the State's local workforce for
3 stable, lucrative careers in trades, film, and tourism
4 industries. Hawaii's vibrant skilled trade sector comprises
5 58,470 jobs statewide, and its growing creative sector
6 collectively impacts 49,597 jobs statewide. Tourism represents
7 the largest part of Hawaii's economy, supporting 216,000 jobs
8 statewide.

9 The legislature finds that there is a disconnect between
10 the needs and expectations of today's employers and the current
11 skills of the State's local workforce. In 2021, the Hawaii
12 Employers Council evaluated national business trends to conclude
13 that 66.4 per cent of businesses report difficulty in hiring
14 employees within their industry. Additionally, within that
15 surveyed group, 79 per cent attribute it to a lack of qualified
16 candidacy. The legislature finds that the way to close this



1 skills gap is to improve job training in K-12 schools and more
2 closely align education to employment.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
4 education, in collaboration and consultation with the department
5 of business, economic development, and tourism, the department
6 of labor and industrial relations, the University of Hawaii; and
7 the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, to develop and
8 implement a K-12 curriculum-to-career-pipeline initiative that
9 will prepare students with the skills needed for professional
10 licensing and certifications or college credit to enter the
11 State's workforce upon graduation from high school.

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

15 "§302A- K-12 curriculum-to-career-pipeline initiative.

16 (a) There shall be created in the department a K-12 curriculum-
17 to-career-pipeline initiative.

18 (b) The purpose of the K-12 curriculum-to-career-pipeline
19 initiative shall be to enable students to pursue training and
20 qualified experiences, as approved by a school's administration,
21 pertaining to the fields of, trades, film, tourism, and other



1 industries to be determined by the department and accrue credits
2 to complete graduation requirements.

3 (c) The department shall collaborate and consult with the
4 department of business, economic development, and tourism; the
5 department of labor and industrial relations, the University of
6 Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, to
7 develop and implement the K-12 curriculum-to-career-pipeline
8 initiative.

9 (d) The department shall adopt and implement specific
10 training and education programs for trades, film, tourism, and
11 other industries to be determined by the department. In
12 adopting such programs, the department shall build a curriculum
13 track to facilitate transition into post-secondary education at
14 the University of Hawaii and the University of Hawaii Community
15 Colleges.

16 (e) The department shall offer the followings to satisfy
17 high school graduation requirements:

18 (1) A reciprocal credit program with the University of
19 Hawaii and the University of Hawaii Community Colleges
20 allowing student eligibility for existing
21 Apprenticeship Training programs;



- 1 (2) A reciprocal credit program with the University of
2 Hawaii School of Cinematic Arts, including but not
3 limited to training on film production, editing and
4 motion graphics software, animation, and screen
5 writing;
- 6 (3) Internship programs;
- 7 (4) Age-appropriate work-based learning activities;
- 8 (5) Structured on-the-job learning;
- 9 (6) Programs and instruction that ensure students in
10 grades nine to twelve develop skills needed for
11 professional licensing, certifications, and
12 credentialing; and
- 13 (7) Opportunities for connections with local workers,
14 employers or experts in the fields.
- 15 (f) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
16 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section."

17 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
18 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and
19 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined
20 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the
21 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025



1 to be exceeded by \$ or per cent. The reasons for
 2 exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the
 3 appropriation made for this Act is necessary to serve the public
 4 interest and to meet the need addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
 8 purpose of developing and implementing a K-12 curriculum-to-
 9 career pipeline initiative.

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

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 1708

Report Title:

Minority Caucus Package; Education; General Fund Exceeded

Description:

Establishes a K-12 curriculum-to-career pipeline initiative.

Appropriates funds to develop and implement the program.

Declares the general fund expenditure ceiling exceeded.

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