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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIC EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that civic education  
2 prepares students to participate in the public and political  
3 lives of their communities. Teaching students about the  
4 importance of civic engagement through civic education helps  
5 develop critical thinking skills that are vital to the  
6 functioning of a democratic nation, including how to recognize  
7 social problems, evaluate possible solutions to problems,  
8 separate evidence-based claims from opinions, and act upon what  
9 is learned.

10           The legislature further finds that according to the US  
11 Elections Project, in the 2022 general election, forty-four  
12 states had a higher voter turnout than Hawaii. The legislature  
13 also finds that cultivating social and political engagement  
14 among students through civic education is an important strategy  
15 to increase voter turnout and citizen engagement over the long  
16 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           The legislature also finds that engaging students in the  
13 pursuit of active and informed citizenship will connect students  
14 to the world through informed instructional experiences that are  
15 led by teachers who are committed to active civic participation.  
16 In this way, students will not simply acquire knowledge but will  
17 have the skills to engage in the workings of a democracy and  
18 practice democratic citizenship. However, the legislature finds  
19 that the department of education has not engaged in systematic  
20 teacher training on the new standards or addressed the paucity



1 of culturally appropriate materials for historical and civic  
2 education.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Appropriate funds to the department of education to  
5 increase access to civic education in Hawaii's public  
6 school system; and

7 (2) Establish and fund two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)  
8 permanent civic education resource teacher positions  
9 within the department of education.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
14 year 2024-2025 for the expansion of civic education in public  
15 schools, including professional development and classroom  
16 resources related to the Hawaii core standards in social  
17 studies, and the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0  
18 FTE) permanent civic education resource teacher positions.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
20 of education for the purposes of this Act.



**1** SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Civic Education; Department of Education; Resource Teacher;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of education for the expansion of civic education in the public schools. Establishes two full-time equivalent permanent civic education resource teacher positions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

