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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ADVANCING 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 supreme court enacted Rule 23 to establish the commission to  
5 promote and advance civic education (PACE commission). One of  
6 the main functions of the PACE commission is to provide  
7 leadership, oversight, and initiatives to increase civic  
8 education in the community and at schools, increase citizens'  
9 knowledge about government, and promote informed participation  
10 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 education.  
3 However, the public access room currently lacks resources to  
4 provide outreach services beyond its current efforts.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Require the public access room to establish and  
7 maintain an outreach and engagement program for  
8 primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community  
9 education and provide funding for one full-time  
10 equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in  
11 effectuating this requirement; and
- 12 (2) Require the department of education and University of  
13 Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with  
14 the public access room with respect to the outreach  
15 and engagement program.

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

18 "(a) There is established in the state capitol a public  
19 access room in which members of the public shall be allowed to  
20 utilize various equipment, services, and facilities to enhance  
21 their ability to participate in the legislative process. As



1 part of its duties, the public access room shall establish and  
2 maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary,  
3 secondary, post-secondary, and community education."

4 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart C, to be  
6 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

7 "§302A- Coordination with public access room; outreach  
8 and engagement. The department shall assign appropriate staff  
9 to coordinate with the public access room with respect to the  
10 outreach and engagement program described in section 21G-2(a)."

11 SECTION 4. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart G, to be  
13 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

14 "§304A- Coordination with public access room; outreach  
15 and engagement. The university shall assign appropriate staff  
16 to coordinate with the public access room with respect to the  
17 outreach and engagement program described in section 21G-2(a)."

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 2023-2024 and  
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
2 position within the public access room.

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

5 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; University of Hawaii; Legislative Reference Bureau; Public Access Room; Educational Outreach and Engagement Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Public Access Room to establish and maintain an outreach and engagement program for primary, secondary, post-secondary, and community education and appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to assist in effectuating this requirement. Requires the Department of Education and University of Hawaii to assign appropriate staff to coordinate with the Public Access Room with respect to the outreach and engagement program. Effective 7/1/2112. (SD1)

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

