

ACT 309

S.B. NO. 2211

A Bill for an Act Relating to Education.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to prepare Hawaii’s public school students to earn a place in the global, electronic marketplace of the future by:

- (1) Requiring all pupils to be progressively competent in the use of computer technology; and
- (2) Requiring the course of study and instruction for the first twelve grades to enable all students to meet progressive standards of competency in a language in addition to English.

SECTION 2. Section 302A-1128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) The department shall regulate the courses of study to be pursued in all grades of public schools and classify them by [such] methods [as] the department deems proper; provided that [the]:

- (1) The course of study and instruction in the first eight grades shall be so regulated that not less than fifty per cent of the study and instruction in each school day is devoted to the oral expression, the written composition, and the spelling of the English language, except for special projects using the Hawaiian language as approved by the board[.];
- (2) All pupils shall be progressively competent in the use of computer technology; and

- (3) The course of study and instruction for the first twelve grades shall enable all students to meet progressive standards of competency in a language in addition to English.

For the purposes of this subsection, the terms “progressively competent in the use of computer technology” and “progressive standards of competency in a language in addition to English” shall be defined by the board through rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, with reference to relevant national or international standards of competency. Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3) to the contrary, the board, through rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, shall formulate statewide educational policies allowing the superintendent to exempt certain students from the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3).”

SECTION 3. The department of education, after consulting with parties involved in public education and after considering relevant national standards, shall develop a plan for the implementation of this Act, including a timetable of when the goals will be reached, and shall submit a copy of the plan to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1999.

SECTION 4.<sup>1</sup> This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved July 20, 1998.)

**Note**

1. No Ramseyer clause.