ACT 75   H.B. NO. 1056

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Certification of Principals and Vice-Principals.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of education currently has requirements for the certification of its principals and vice-principals. The legislature also finds that the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides educational funds for states that pursue educational reform and additional funds for those states that qualify for Race to the Top funds by advancing educational reform.

One of the selection criteria for the Race to the Top funds is providing alternative routes to certification for teachers and principals. Although the legislature previously amended section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish alternative routes to certification, the current requirement that a principal candidate possess not less than five years of appropriate school-level experience, of which at least three years shall have been as a teacher, is too restrictive and conflicts with the Race to the Top grant requirements.

The purpose of this Act is to provide principal and vice-principal candidates alternate routes of certification that meet the federal Race to the Top requirements.

SECTION 2. Section 302A-605, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

"(a) Principals shall meet the department's certification requirements and shall have at least five years of appropriate school-level experience, including at least three years as a teacher[.], or equivalent experience, as determined by the department.

(b) Vice-principals shall meet the department's certification requirements and shall have appropriate school-level or equivalent experience, as determined by the department."

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 1, 2011.)