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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1           SECTION 1. Due to a variety of factors, Hawaii has long  
2 suffered from a shortage of qualified public-school teachers.  
3 This shortage not only continues but is worsening. Fewer  
4 graduates from Hawaii teacher education programs are entering  
5 the profession. According to the Hawaii State Teachers  
6 Association, the number of graduates joining the department of  
7 education fell by nearly thirty per cent, from five hundred  
8 forty-five in the 2010-11 school year to three hundred eighty-  
9 seven in the 2016-17 school year. Furthermore, four hundred  
10 eleven public-school teachers resigned and left Hawaii in 2017,  
11 compared to two hundred sixty-six in 2012 and two hundred  
12 twenty-three in 2010.

13           In a presentation to the board of education on June 21,  
14 2018, the Hawaii State Teachers Association testified that  
15 teacher vacancies increased fifty-one per cent from 2011 and the  
16 number of unlicensed teachers who do not meet state  
17 qualifications rose sixty-three per cent from 2011.



1 Data released by the department of education on November  
2 15, 2018, revealed that out of a total 13,437 teaching positions  
3 in 2018, five hundred eight spots were filled by instructors who  
4 had not completed a state-approved teacher preparation program.  
5 An additional five hundred twenty-one spots were vacant as of  
6 August 1, 2018. As a result, one thousand twenty-nine positions  
7 statewide are not filled by highly qualified teachers.

8 In comparison, during the 2012-13 school year, out of a  
9 total of 12,934 teaching positions, two hundred seventy-four  
10 were filled by emergency hires and three hundred thirty-four  
11 spots were vacant as of August 1, 2012, for a total of six  
12 hundred eight positions not filled by certified teachers during  
13 that school year.

14 The recent data reflects another long-term trend: teachers  
15 leaving Hawaii has outpaced retirement as the top reason for  
16 attrition in the last three years. During the 2017-18 school  
17 year, four hundred twenty-three teachers left Hawaii for the  
18 mainland, a seventy-one percent increase from five years ago.

19 The legislature finds that the University of Hawaii system  
20 does not offer a sufficient number of classes in their major for  
21 students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in the field of



1 education, especially distance-learning classes. The  
2 legislature further finds that this issue is a matter of  
3 statewide concern that falls under its purview pursuant to  
4 article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the University of  
6 Hawaii to establish additional distance-learning classes in  
7 teaching for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in  
8 education.

9 SECTION 2. (a) Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic  
10 year, the University of Hawaii shall establish additional  
11 distance-learning classes in teaching for students who are  
12 pursuing undergraduate degrees in education.

13 (b) As used in this section, "distance learning" means a  
14 method of education in which lectures are broadcast or classes  
15 are conducted over the Internet and enrolled students are not  
16 required to attend lectures or classes at a physical campus of  
17 the University of Hawaii.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
19 provided that this Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2023.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Distance-learning; Teaching

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii system to create additional distance-learning classes in teaching for students who are pursuing undergraduate degrees in education. (HB398 HD1)

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

