
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that during the late
2 1960s and early 1970s, Hawai'i experienced a grassroots movement
3 to revitalize the native Hawaiian culture, which also led to
4 demands for Hawai'i-oriented courses in Hawai'i's public schools
5 and colleges.

6 At the same time, proponents of the movement acknowledged a
7 risk of losing native knowledge of the Hawaiian language,
8 culture, and history permanently with many traditional kupuna
9 being of advanced age and rapidly dwindling in numbers. This
10 prompted the 1978 constitutional convention to propose a
11 Hawaiian education program that, upon approval by the voters,
12 became article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution
13 which, among other things, requires the State to promote the
14 study of Hawaiian culture, history, and language and provide for
15 a Hawaiian education program consisting of language, culture,
16 and history in the public schools.

17 The legislature further finds that there are concerns that
18 the Hawaiian education programs in the public schools are



1 disjointed, lack appropriate oversight, and are not provided
2 adequate resources in order to meet the purpose and intent of
3 article X, section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

4 The purpose of this Act is to create the office of Hawaiian
5 education to be placed within the office of the superintendent
6 of education for the purpose of providing instruction to public
7 school students on Hawaiian history, culture, arts, and language
8 and to oversee Hawaiian education programs in the public
9 schools.

10 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
11 of education an office of Hawaiian education for the purpose of
12 providing instruction to public school students on Hawaiian
13 history, culture, arts, and language. The office shall be
14 placed within the office of the superintendent of education, and
15 the head of the office shall be a member of the superintendent's
16 leadership team. The office shall have direct oversight and
17 responsibility for:

18 (1) All components of the Hawaiian education program
19 established pursuant to article X, section 4, of the
20 Hawaii State Constitution; and



1 (2) The Hawaiian language medium education program
2 established pursuant to chapter 302H, Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes.

4 The office may assist public charter schools governed by
5 chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in providing instruction
6 to students on Hawaiian history, culture, arts, and language if
7 these topics are part of the charter school's curriculum.

8 (b) The department of education shall allocate resources,
9 including personnel and fiscal support, to the office of
10 Hawaiian education to create and implement appropriate
11 curricula, standards, performance assessment tools, professional
12 development, and strategies for community engagement throughout
13 the department of education.

14 SECTION 3. Section 302A-630, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

16 "(d) In determining additional benefits for teachers,
17 staff, and administrators in Hawaiian language medium education,
18 the department, in consultation with the office of Hawaiian
19 education established pursuant to Act _____, Session Laws of
20 Hawaii 2015, may allow credit for practical experience."

21 SECTION 4. The department of education shall report to the
22 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of



1 each regular session on its compliance with this Act and board
2 of education policies 2104 and 2105; provided that the report
3 submitted to the legislature prior to the convening of the
4 regular session of 2015 shall include a statutory audit of
5 chapter 302H, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and a determination,
6 including any proposed legislation, as to whether the office of
7 Hawaiian education established pursuant to section 2 of this Act
8 should be codified in chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or
9 chapter 302H, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10 SECTION 5. 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 2014-2015 for
13 the establishment of the office of Hawaiian education and for
14 the office to carry out its duties and functions pursuant to
15 this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 education for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;
20 provided that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



Report Title:

Department of Education; Hawaiian Education Programs;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the office of Hawaiian education for the purpose of providing instruction to public school students on Hawaiian history, culture, arts, and language. Requires reports to the legislature. Makes an appropriation for the office of Hawaiian education. Effective July 1, 2050. (SD1)

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

