
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has an
2 obligation to prepare Hawaii's students with the tools necessary
3 for successful futures in the modern economy. In 2017, 17
4 percent of Hawaii high schoolers did not graduate. Furthermore,
5 just 55 percent of Hawaii high schoolers go on to enroll in
6 post-secondary education after graduation, and only 32 percent
7 enroll in a four-year university. The Department of Education
8 must give students more options to motivate and prepare them for
9 their careers.

10 A traditional four-year bachelor's degree is becoming
11 increasingly irrelevant for earning potential and job placement,
12 especially when considering the debt-to-earnings ratio incurred
13 by many students at private colleges and universities. Over
14 forty-four million borrowers owe a total of \$1.5 trillion in
15 student loan debt. The average college graduate in 2016 carries
16 \$37,172 in student loan debt. Nationwide, three out of ten high
17 school graduates from four-year public universities have not



1 earned degrees within six years. Additionally, many well-paying
2 jobs do not require higher education. Nearly 30 million jobs in
3 the United States that pay an average of \$55,000 per year do not
4 require bachelor's degrees. A bachelor's degree is not a
5 straight path to economic self-sufficiency as it once was.

6 Trade jobs are a growing area of opportunity for high
7 school graduates. According to the United States Labor
8 Department, there were 6.6 million job openings in early 2018
9 and job openings are expected to outpace available employees in
10 the near future. Careers in construction, health care, and
11 personal care will account for one-third of all new jobs in the
12 next four years according to the United States Bureau of Labor
13 Statistics. In some states, trade jobs like carpentry,
14 electrical, plumbing, sheet-metal work, and pipe-fitting have
15 more vacancies than qualified workers to fill them. Moreover,
16 the United States Department of Education reports that in the
17 next five years there will be sixty-eight percent more job
18 openings in infrastructure-related fields than there are people
19 trained to fill them.

20 Many high school graduates are reaping the benefits of
21 trade jobs. For some industries, a technical program graduate



1 can earn above the national average income plus benefits after
2 just a few semesters of certificate training for a fraction of
3 the cost of an undergraduate education. Tuition and fees for
4 community or technical colleges are also significantly cheaper
5 than four-year universities.

6 Encouraging vocational training and business
7 apprenticeships in Hawaii Department of Education schools and
8 providing additional resources will enable students to take
9 advantage of these opportunities and galvanize students for whom
10 a four-year university is not the right fit. The State must
11 help its students take advantage of a historically strong
12 national economy by preparing them for family wage jobs that do
13 not require a bachelor's degree.

14 The purpose of this Act is to ease the requirements for the
15 Department of Education to hire individuals to teach career,
16 technical, or career pathway classes, and to amend the Private
17 Trade, Vocational, and Technical School Special Fund to further
18 develop training, business apprenticeships, and career
19 opportunities for Hawaii students.

20 SECTION 2. Section 302A-602, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 "§302A-602 Teachers; licenses and certificates. (a) No
2 person shall serve as a teacher in the department without first
3 having obtained a license from the Hawaii teacher standards
4 board in such form as the Hawaii teacher standards board
5 determines. The department shall establish types of
6 certificates in the educational field and the requirements to
7 qualify for those certificates issued to individuals who are not
8 required to obtain a license pursuant to sections 302A-801 to
9 302A-808.

10 (b) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, no person
11 paid under the salary schedule contained in the unit 5
12 collective bargaining agreement shall serve as a teacher in the
13 department without first having obtained a license pursuant to
14 sections 302A-801 to 302A-808 from the Hawaii teacher standards
15 board in such form as the Hawaii teacher standards board
16 determines.

17 (c) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the
18 department may employ unlicensed individuals as emergency hires
19 pursuant to sections 302A-801 to 302A-808.

20 (d) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the
21 department may employ unlicensed individuals as vocational,



1 technical or career pathway teachers pursuant to sections 302A-
2 801 to 302A-808."

3 SECTION 3. Section 302A-802, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§302A-802 **Licensing standards; policies.** (a) The board
6 shall establish licensing standards that govern teacher
7 licensing in Hawaii. Licensing standards established by the
8 board shall be adopted as rules under chapter 91 unless
9 otherwise specified in this subpart.

10 (b) In the development of its standards, the board shall
11 consider the existing teacher applicant pool that is available
12 in the State and the level of the qualification of these
13 applicants, as well as the nature and availability of existing
14 preservice teacher training programs.

15 (c) The board shall adopt policies, exempt from chapters
16 91 and 92, to initiate the following:

17 (1) Develop criteria allowing more individuals with trade
18 or industry experience to teach in vocational,
19 technical, and career pathway programs, and criteria
20 for the issuance of permits allowing qualified
21 individuals to teach when recommended by the



1 superintendent or the commission, when appropriate.
2 The department or the commission, when appropriate,
3 shall be responsible for the review and acceptance of
4 the relevant licenses, certificates, or other
5 qualifications related to an individual's vocational,
6 technical, or career pathway education-related
7 experience that the department or the commission, when
8 appropriate, deems necessary for a permit. The
9 department or the commission [~~when appropriate,~~]
10 shall [~~have the authority to~~] waive the requirement of
11 a bachelor's degree to teach in a vocation, technical,
12 or career pathway education program;

13 (2) Develop a plan to accept teachers from any state as
14 long as they have completed state-approved teacher
15 education programs and pass relevant Hawaii teacher
16 examinations or their equivalent;

17 (3) Clarify the requirements, on a state-by-state basis,
18 for out-of-state licensed teachers to obtain a license
19 in Hawaii;

20 (4) Develop a plan to facilitate licensing for those who
21 intend to teach in Hawaii immersion programs, the



1 island of Niihau, or any other extraordinary situation
2 as defined by the superintendent or the
3 superintendent's designee, or by the commission, when
4 appropriate; and

5 (5) Pursue full teacher license reciprocity with all other
6 states."

7 SECTION 4. Section 302A-808, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "§302A-808 Penalty. Any person who engages in the
10 profession of teaching in a public school without first being
11 issued a license[~~or~~], hired on an emergency basis or hired as a
12 vocational, technical or career pathway teacher as defined in
13 this chapter shall be fined not more than \$500. Any person who
14 knowingly or intentionally violates this subpart by employing an
15 individual as a public school teacher who does not possess a
16 valid license [~~or~~], is not a department of education or charter
17 school emergency hire or hired as a vocational, technical or
18 career pathway teacher as defined in this chapter may be fined
19 not more than \$500. All fines shall be deposited into the
20 Hawaii teacher standards board special fund."



1 SECTION 4. Section 302a-425.5, Hawaii Revised

2 Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

3 "[§302A-425.5] Private trade, vocational, and technical
4 school [~~licensure~~] special fund. (a) There is created in the
5 state treasury a special fund to be designated as the private
6 trade, vocational, and technical school [~~licensure~~] special fund
7 into which shall be deposited:

8 (1) All revenues and fees collected by the department
9 pursuant to section 302A-425; [~~and~~]

10 (2) Appropriations from the general fund of the State[~~-~~];

11 (3) Federal funds granted by Congress or executive order;
12 and

13 (4) Grants, donations, and contributions from private or
14 public sources for the purposes of the private trade,
15 vocational, and technical school special fund.

16 (b) Moneys in the private trade, vocational, and technical
17 school [~~licensure~~] special fund shall be used [~~to fund~~] for the
18 following purposes:

19 (1) [~~activities~~] Activities related to the licensure
20 requirements established under section 302A-425,



- 1 including funding for permanent staff positions and
- 2 administrative and operational costs[-];
- 3 (2) Creating and maintaining vocational, technical and
- 4 career pathway classes;
- 5 (3) Funding the administrative costs, program fees,
- 6 equipment or other costs for students enrolled in
- 7 career or technical courses pursuant to §304A-803; and
- 8 (4) Any and all purposes for vocational, technical and
- 9 career pathway classes including personnel, equipment
- 10 and facilities costs.

11 (c) Whenever the governor determines that the amount in the
 12 private trade, vocational and technical school special fund
 13 exceeds the requirement of the program, the department shall
 14 transfer the excess to the general fund."

15 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the
 18 private trade, vocational and technical school special fund.

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



1 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 607

Report Title:

Private Trade, Vocational, and Technical School Special Fund

Description:

Amends the Private Trade, Vocational, and Technical School Special Fund within the Department of Education to fund vocational, technical and career pathway classes for public school students and to cover student costs associated with career and technical education classes. Allows individuals to teach vocational, technical or career pathway classes without a bachelor's degree.

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

