
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ETHNIC STUDIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to read
3 as follows:

4 "§302A- Ethnic studies. (a) Beginning with students
5 graduating at the end of the 2029-2030 school year, each student
6 shall complete at least one semester course in ethnic studies
7 while in high school.

8 (b) Each ethnic studies course shall:

9 (1) Include information on native Hawaiian language,
10 history, culture, and sustainability taught by native
11 Hawaii cultural practitioners and other qualified
12 educators;

13 (2) Include information on migration to Hawaii by the
14 various ethnic groups and their contributions to
15 Hawaii;



1 (3) Be appropriate for students of all races, religions,
2 genders, sexual orientations, ethnic and cultural
3 backgrounds, and disabilities;

4 (4) Not reflect or promote, directly or indirectly, any
5 bias, bigotry, or discrimination against any person or
6 group of persons; and

7 (5) Not teach or promote religious doctrine."

8 SECTION 2. (a) The superintendent of education shall
9 develop, adopt, modify, or revise a model curriculum in ethnic
10 studies to ensure quality courses of ethnic studies.

11 (b) The model curriculum shall be developed with
12 participation from faculty of ethnic studies programs at the
13 university of Hawaii and high school teachers who have relevant
14 experience or education background in the study and teaching of
15 ethnic studies.

16 (c) The superintendent of education shall make the model
17 curriculum publicly available and accept public comments for at
18 least sixty days thereafter. The superintendent of education
19 may then amend the model curriculum in response to public
20 comment and shall not be required to accept further public
21 comment on the amended model curriculum.



H.B. NO. 619

1 (d) After satisfying the requirements of subsection (b),
2 the superintendent of education, on or before December 31, 2023,
3 shall make the model curriculum publicly available and submit it
4 to the board of education for approval. The board of education
5 shall adopt or reject the submitted model curriculum on or
6 before March 31, 2024.

7 (e) If the board of education rejects the submitted model
8 curriculum, the superintendent of education shall amend the
9 submitted model curriculum and resubmit it to the board of
10 education within sixty days of the rejection. The board of
11 education shall then adopt or reject the amended submitted model
12 curriculum within sixty days of resubmission.

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

15

INTRODUCED BY: 
JAN 22 2021



H.B. NO. 619

Report Title:

Department of Education; Ethnic Studies; Required Course

Description:

Requires public school students to complete a course in ethnic studies. Requires the superintendent of education to develop a model curriculum in ethnic studies, circulate the curriculum for public comment, and obtain approval of the curriculum from the board of education.

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

