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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the field of  
2 education is changing rapidly to meet the needs of the local and  
3 global workforce and communities. Due to this development, the  
4 line between K-12 education, higher education, and the workforce  
5 continue to blur. In order to bolster Hawaii's economy and stem  
6 the local brain drain of talent leaving the State, the  
7 legislature further finds that it is important for Hawaii's  
8 students to attain quality, work-based learning opportunities  
9 and connections to local employers prior to graduation.

10           The legislature additionally finds that the board of  
11 education serves an important policy making function for the  
12 Hawaii education system. As schools expand their career  
13 readiness programs and partnerships with employers, the board  
14 will need to have a sophisticated understanding of policy  
15 related to these areas.

16           Furthermore, the legislature finds that the National  
17 Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) has specific



1 recommendations for making state boards of education most  
2 effective. In terms of individual board members, NASBE's  
3 recommendations include that members represent all students and  
4 families, maintain student achievement as a north star, view all  
5 decisions with an equity lens, and make clear decisions.  
6 NASBE's recommendations for boards also include serving as the  
7 citizen voice in education, leading through policy, and  
8 remaining future oriented.

9 Therefore, the legislature finds that Hawaii's education  
10 system will benefit through greater diversity of backgrounds,  
11 expertise, and perspectives on the board of education, and that  
12 individuals serving on the board should conduct themselves in  
13 accordance with best practices from expert organizations, such  
14 as NASBE.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the  
16 minimum qualifications for board of education members to:

17 (1) Diversify the experiences of board members to include  
18 knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in  
19 education, workforce development, critical industries  
20 to the State, emerging fields, energy, advanced  
21 manufacturing, health care, business, technology,



1           entrepreneurship, real estate finance, or organization  
2           management; and

3           (2) Clarify that the board of education's best practices  
4           should be aligned with those of organizations such as  
5           the National Association of State Boards of Education.

6           SECTION 2. Section 302A-126, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7           amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

8           " (b) Each nominee shall meet the following minimum  
9           qualifications:

10           (1) Record of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical  
11           standards. Each nominee shall demonstrate integrity,  
12           civic virtue, and high ethical standards and be  
13           willing to hold fellow board members to the same;

14           (2) Availability for constructive engagement. Each  
15           nominee shall commit to being a conscientious and  
16           attentive board member;

17           (3) Knowledge of best practices. Each nominee shall have  
18           an understanding of best practices in educational  
19           governance through organizations such as the National  
20           Association of State Boards of Education or similar



1           organizations or shall be willing to be trained in  
2           such; [~~and~~]

3           (4) Commitment to educational leadership. Each nominee  
4           shall have a clear understanding of the board's role  
5           in developing and protecting a clear, long-term  
6           strategic vision for Hawaii's public schools, and  
7           shall understand the need to hold the superintendent  
8           of education accountable for making consistent  
9           progress toward that vision[~~-~~]; and

10          (5) Relevant experience. The board collectively shall  
11          have knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in as  
12          many of the following fields as possible, including  
13          education, workforce development, critical industries  
14          to the State, emerging fields, energy, advanced  
15          manufacturing, health care, business, technology,  
16          entrepreneurship, real estate, finance, or  
17          organizational management."

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

20          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Board of Education; Members; Qualifications

**Description:**

Amends the minimum qualifications for board of education members. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD1)

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

