
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, in the current job
2 market, nearly sixty-five per cent of available positions
3 require post-secondary credentials. Industry-recognized
4 credentials are important because they teach the specific
5 knowledge and skills that are required for an occupation or
6 industry. Full-time employees with industry credentials earn
7 more than their uncredentialed counterparts, and, in some cases,
8 the salaries of credential holders who do not hold college
9 degrees are similar to the salaries of college graduates.

10 The legislature also finds that the State has critical
11 shortages of qualified and credentialed workers in sectors
12 including health, education, air travel, agriculture, and
13 technology. Given the recent downturn in the State's economy
14 and the rise in unemployment, it is especially important for
15 Hawaii to equip its students for the existing job market. To
16 this end, the Promising Credentials project, a collaborative
17 effort aimed at using Hawaii labor market data and local



1 employer insights to identify high-value industry credentials in
2 the State, was launched. This information will enable local
3 career readiness programs to better tailor their offerings to
4 Hawaii's job market and to deliver more effective services to
5 both students and employers.

6 Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, which requires, in
7 part, a statewide longitudinal data system, will better enable
8 the department of education and employers to align offerings and
9 opportunities based on data. The legislature believes that
10 students and employers in Hawaii both benefit when career
11 readiness programs at school prepare students based on regional
12 needs.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a career
14 development success program to provide financial incentives for
15 participating public high schools and charter schools to
16 encourage pupils enrolled in grades nine through twelve to
17 enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-
18 credential programs.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to subpart C of part II to be
21 appropriately designated and to read as follows:



1 "§302A- Industry-recognized credentials; career
2 development success program. (a) There is established within
3 the department a career development success program to provide
4 financial incentives for participating high schools to encourage
5 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in public high
6 schools to enroll in and successfully complete qualified
7 industry-credential programs.

8 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, each
9 participating school may receive up to \$ for each
10 pupil who, in the preceding fiscal year, successfully completes
11 a qualified industry-credential program.

12 (c) Each participating school may decide annually whether
13 to participate in the career development success program.

14 (d) The department shall create a process with a deadline
15 for participating schools to report student credential
16 attainment.

17 (e) For each fiscal year, the department shall distribute
18 to each participating school an amount equal to \$
19 multiplied by the number of pupils reported by the participating
20 school as successfully earning an industry certificate by
21 completing a qualified industry-credential program; provided



1 that a participating school shall not receive a distribution for
2 more than ten per cent of the total number of completed industry
3 certificates reported by the schools.

4 (f) For each fiscal year, the department shall distribute
5 funds in the following order until all funds are disbursed:

6 (1) Based on the order received by the department, funds
7 shall be distributed first to participating schools
8 for all who attained Advanced Credentials on the
9 Promising Credentials list;

10 (2) Based on the order received by the department, funds
11 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
12 who attained Door Opener Credentials on the Promising
13 Credentials list;

14 (3) Based on the order received by the department, funds
15 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
16 who attained Springboard Credentials on the Promising
17 Credentials list;

18 (4) Based on the order received by the department, funds
19 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
20 who attained Foundational Credentials on the Promising
21 Credentials list; and



1 (5) Any remaining funds shall be deposited into the
2 general fund.

3 (g) Each participating school shall regularly communicate
4 to all high school students the availability of qualified
5 industry-credential programs and the benefits a student receives
6 as a result of successfully completing one of the programs or
7 courses. The participating school shall design the
8 communications with students with the goal of increasing
9 participation in the qualified industry-credential programs and
10 courses across all student subgroups.

11 (h) As used in this section:

12 "Advanced Credentials" means credentials that signal
13 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
14 that may also require a bachelor's degree or as otherwise
15 defined by the department.

16 "Door Opener Credentials" means credentials that signal
17 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
18 that require some post-secondary education, including
19 certificates and associate degrees, or as otherwise defined by
20 the department.



1 "Foundational Credentials" means credentials that prepare
2 learners with essential knowledge and skills for a range of
3 priority occupations, including workplace safety, or as
4 otherwise defined by the department.

5 "Participating school" means a public high school that
6 chooses to participate in the career development success program
7 established pursuant to this section.

8 "Qualified industry-credential program" means a program
9 where a student attains a credential that is included in the
10 most current version of the Promising Credentials and
11 Occupations in Hawaii list.

12 "Springboard Credentials" means credentials that signal
13 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
14 that often do not require a postsecondary certificate or degree,
15 or as otherwise defined by the department."

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§302D- Industry-recognized credentials; career
20 development success program. (a) There is established by the
21 commission a career development success program to provide



1 financial incentives for participating public charter schools to
2 encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in
3 public charter schools to enroll in and successfully complete
4 qualified industry-credential programs.

5 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, each
6 participating school may receive up to \$ _____ for each
7 pupil who, in the preceding fiscal year, successfully completes
8 a qualified industry-credential program.

9 (c) Each participating school may decide annually whether
10 to participate in the career development success program.

11 (d) The commission shall create a process with a deadline
12 for participating schools to report student credential
13 attainment.

14 (e) For each fiscal year, the commission shall distribute
15 to each participating school an amount equal to \$ _____
16 multiplied by the number of pupils reported by the participating
17 school as successfully earning an industry certificate by
18 completing a qualified industry-credential program; provided
19 that a participating school shall not receive a distribution for
20 more than ten per cent of the total number of completed industry
21 certificates reported by the schools.



- 1 (f) For each fiscal year, the commission shall distribute
2 funds in the following order until all funds are disbursed:
- 3 (1) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
4 shall be distributed first to participating schools
5 for all who attained Advanced Credentials on the
6 Promising Credentials list;
- 7 (2) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
8 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
9 who attained Door Opener Credentials on the Promising
10 Credentials list;
- 11 (3) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
12 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
13 who attained Springboard Credentials on the Promising
14 Credentials list;
- 15 (4) Based on the order received by the commission, funds
16 shall be distributed to participating schools for all
17 who attained Foundational Credentials on the Promising
18 Credentials list; and
- 19 (5) Any remaining funds shall be deposited into the
20 general fund.



1 (g) Each participating school shall regularly communicate
2 to all students in grades nine through twelve the availability
3 of qualified industry-credential programs and the benefits a
4 student receives as a result of successfully completing one of
5 the programs or courses. The participating school shall design
6 the communications with students with the goal of increasing
7 participation in the qualified industry-credential programs and
8 courses across all student subgroups.

9 (h) As used in this section:

10 "Advanced Credentials" means credentials that signal
11 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
12 that may also require a bachelor's degree or as otherwise
13 defined by the department.

14 "Door Opener Credentials" means credentials that signal
15 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
16 that require some post-secondary education, including
17 certificates and associate degrees, or as otherwise defined by
18 the department.

19 "Foundational Credentials" means credentials that prepare
20 learners with essential knowledge and skills for a range of



1 priority occupations, including workplace safety, or as
2 otherwise defined by the department.

3 "Participating school" means a public high school that
4 chooses to participate in the career development success program
5 established pursuant to this section.

6 "Qualified industry-credential program" means a program
7 where a student attains a credential that is included in the
8 most current version of the Promising Credentials and
9 Occupations in Hawaii list.

10 "Springboard Credentials" means credentials that signal
11 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations
12 that often do not require a postsecondary certificate or degree,
13 or as otherwise defined by the department."

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
17 the career development success program established pursuant to
18 section 2 of this Act.

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



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
4 the career development success program established pursuant to
5 section 3 of this Act.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public
7 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
10 provided that sections 4 and 5 shall take effect on July 1,
11 2022.



Report Title:

Industry-Recognized Credentials; Career Development; Public High Schools; Public Charter Schools; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a career development success program to provide financial incentives for participating public high schools to encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve to enroll in and successfully complete qualified industry-credential programs. Establishes a similar program for public charter schools. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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