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# 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 having industry credentials earn  
7 more than their uncredentialed counterparts, and the salaries of  
8 credential holders who do not hold college degrees are in some  
9 cases 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 various  
12 sectors, including health, education, air travel, agriculture,  
13 and technology. Given the recent downturn in the State's  
14 economy and the rise in unemployment, it is especially important  
15 for Hawaii to equip its students for the existing job market.  
16 To 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 school career  
11 readiness programs prepare students based on regional needs.

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

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by adding a new section to subpart C of part II to be  
20 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. The funds shall be  
12 distributed to participating schools as provided in subsections  
13 (e) and (f).

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

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

19           (e) For each fiscal year, the department shall distribute  
20 to each participating school an amount equal to \$                     
21 multiplied by the number of pupils reported by the participating

1 school as successfully earning an industry certificate by  
2 completing a qualified industry-credential program; provided  
3 that a participating school shall not receive a distribution for  
4 more than ten per cent of the total number of completed industry  
5 certificates reported by all participating schools.

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

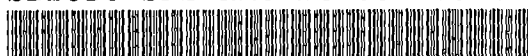
8 (1) Based on the order received by the department, funds  
9 shall be distributed first to participating schools  
10 for all who attained Advanced Credentials;

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

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;

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

20 (5) Any remaining funds shall be deposited into the  
21 general fund.



1        (g) Each participating school shall regularly communicate  
2 to all high school students the availability of qualified  
3 industry-credential programs and the benefits a student receives  
4 as a result of successfully completing one of the programs or  
5 courses. The participating school shall design the  
6 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, as determined by the  
13 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, as determined by the  
18 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, as determined  
2 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 that is recognized by the department as offering students the  
8 opportunity to attain a high-value industry credential.

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

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

16 "§302D- Industry-recognized credentials; career  
17 development success program. (a) There is established by the  
18 commission a career development success program to provide  
19 financial incentives for participating public charter schools to  
20 encourage students enrolled in grades nine through twelve in



1 public charter schools to enroll in and successfully complete  
2 qualified industry-credential programs.

3 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 fiscal year, each  
4 participating school may receive up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for each  
5 pupil who, in the preceding fiscal year, successfully completes  
6 a qualified industry-credential program. The funds shall be  
7 distributed to participating schools as provided in subsections  
8 (e) and (f).

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 all participating 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;
- 6        (2) Based on the order received by the commission, funds  
7 shall be distributed to participating schools for all  
8 who attained Door Opener Credentials;
- 9        (3) Based on the order received by the commission, funds  
10 shall be distributed to participating schools for all  
11 who attained Springboard Credentials;
- 12        (4) Based on the order received by the commission, funds  
13 shall be distributed to participating schools for all  
14 who attained Foundational Credentials; and
- 15        (5) Any remaining funds shall be deposited into the  
16 general fund.
- 17        (g) Each participating school shall regularly communicate  
18 to all students in grades nine through twelve the availability  
19 of qualified industry-credential programs and the benefits a  
20 student receives as a result of successfully completing one of  
21 the programs or courses. The participating school shall design





1 the communications with students with the goal of increasing  
2 participation in the qualified industry-credential programs and  
3 courses across all student subgroups.

4 (h) As used in this section:

5 "Advanced Credentials" means credentials that signal  
6 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations  
7 that may also require a bachelor's degree, as determined by the  
8 department.

9 "Door Opener Credentials" means credentials that signal  
10 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations  
11 that require some post-secondary education, including  
12 certificates and associate degrees, as determined by the  
13 department.

14 "Foundational Credentials" means credentials that prepare  
15 learners with essential knowledge and skills for a range of  
16 priority occupations, including workplace safety, as determined  
17 by the department.

18 "Participating school" means a public high school that  
19 chooses to participate in the career development success program  
20 established pursuant to this section.



1 "Qualified industry-credential program" means a program  
2 that is recognized by the department as offering students the  
3 opportunity to attain a high-value industry credential.

4 "Springboard Credentials" means credentials that signal  
5 proficiency in industry-specific skills for priority occupations  
6 that often do not require a postsecondary certificate or degree,  
7 as determined by the department."

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

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

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

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



- 1 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes a career development success program within the Department of Education 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

