

JAN 19 2024

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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 genocide is defined  
2 as "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a  
3 particular nation or ethnic group, with the aim at destroying  
4 that nation or group." Instances of past genocides include the  
5 Holocaust, the largest blatant genocide, the Armenian Genocide,  
6 the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, the Rwandan Genocide, and  
7 atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Sudan, and Darfur.

8           The legislature further finds that as the number of living  
9 Holocaust survivors and eyewitnesses dwindles, Holocaust denial  
10 and ignorance are becoming much more prevalent. It is important  
11 that stories of survivors of the Holocaust be told to audiences  
12 around the globe. Unfortunately, far too many students in the  
13 United States grow up without basic knowledge of the events of  
14 the Holocaust.

15           The legislature additionally finds that there are alarming  
16 lapses in knowledge about the Holocaust throughout the country.  
17 A survey released in April 2018 by the Conference on Jewish



1 Material Claims Against Germany shows that Americans are  
2 forgetting about the Holocaust or are completely unaware it  
3 occurred. For instance, while there were over forty thousand  
4 camps and ghettos during the Holocaust, forty-nine per cent of  
5 millennials (people born between 1981 and 1996) cannot name one  
6 of these camps or ghettos. Thirty-one per cent of Americans  
7 believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the  
8 Holocaust, even though six million Jews and millions of others  
9 perished.

10 In order to bridge the gap between the facts of history and  
11 what people know, it is imperative that comprehensive Holocaust  
12 education is taking place in every secondary school across the  
13 country. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the  
14 department of education to develop and implement a Holocaust and  
15 genocide curricula.

16 The legislature intends that through this Act, students are  
17 educated on the historical existence of the Holocaust, one of  
18 the most devastating genocides in historical documentation, and  
19 other documented genocides. The legislature further intends  
20 that the curriculum developed pursuant to this Act will teach  
21 the difference between genocide, conducted through killing and



1 eradication of a group, and cultural genocide, conducted through  
2 the dismantling of a people's identity.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§302A- Holocaust and genocide; curricula plan; public  
7 schools. (a) The department shall develop and, beginning with  
8 the 2024-2025 school year, implement a statewide Holocaust and  
9 genocide curricula plan for public school students in a grade  
10 and age appropriate manner, which shall be implemented within  
11 social studies and language arts courses of study.

12 (b) A minimum of six hours of instruction of the Holocaust  
13 and genocide curricula between grades eight through twelve shall  
14 be required for each student prior to graduation from high  
15 school.

16 (c) The Holocaust and genocide curricula shall include, at  
17 minimum:

18 (1) An additional unit of instruction studying acts of  
19 genocide across the globe, including but not limited  
20 to the Holocaust, Armenian Genocide, the Famine-



- 1           Genocide in Ukraine, the Rwandan Genocide, and  
2           atrocities in Cambodia, Bosnia, Sudan, and Darfur;
- 3       (2) The breadth of the history of the Holocaust, including  
4           information on the Third Reich dictatorship; events of  
5           the Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945, including but not  
6           limited to the concentration camp system and  
7           persecution of Jews and non-Jews; Jewish and  
8           non-Jewish resistance; and post-World War II trials;
- 9       (3) A discussion of antisemitism, racism, and the  
10           abridgement of civil rights by Nazi Germany and its  
11           collaborators;
- 12       (4) Instruction that communicates the connection between  
13           nation, ethnic, racial, or religious intolerance, the  
14           Holocaust, and the impact of personal responsibility,  
15           civic engagement, and societal response within the  
16           context of the Holocaust; and
- 17       (5) Acknowledgement of genocides occurring within a  
18           society previously considered an advance society,  
19           including scientifically demonstrated steps toward  
20           genocide and warning signs of genocide.



1       (d) The Holocaust and genocide curricula shall be taught  
2 in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior; an  
3 understanding of the ramifications of antisemitism leading to  
4 prejudice, racism, and stereotyping; and an examination of what  
5 it means to be a responsible and respectful person.

6       (e) The department shall establish curriculum guidelines  
7 and distribute information about appropriate curriculum  
8 materials to each public school and make available in-service  
9 training programs based upon instruction provided for and the  
10 curriculum guidelines established pursuant to this section.

11       (f) The department shall create and distribute materials  
12 and resources to respond to antisemitism, racism, and  
13 hate-related topics for teachers to use when either the teacher  
14 or a student faces, experiences, or is exposed to antisemitism,  
15 racism, or crimes of hate by another student, teacher, parents  
16 or guardians of a student, or a guest of a school.

17       (g) Public schools may utilize:

18       (1) Any curriculum that complies with the requirements of  
19       this section;



1       (2) Programs made available by the department or from  
2       alternative sources if they are deemed consistent with  
3       this section; and

4       (3) Any appropriate public or private materials,  
5       personnel, and other resources in developing and  
6       implementing the program of instruction.

7       (h) The department shall work in consultation with  
8       organizations and individuals that provide educational expertise  
9       and resources related to the Holocaust, genocide, and human  
10      rights violations to develop the curriculum guidelines.

11      (i) The department may accept gifts, grants, and  
12      donations, including in-kind donations, from public agencies and  
13      private persons to be designated for the development and  
14      implementation of the Holocaust and genocide curricula required  
15      pursuant to this section.

16      (j) For the purposes of this section:  
17      "Genocide" includes any of the following acts committed  
18      with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic,  
19      racial, or religious group:

20      (1) Killing members of the group;



1       (2) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of  
2       the group;

3       (3) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of  
4       life calculated to bring about its physical  
5       destruction in whole or in part;

6       (4) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within  
7       the group; or

8       (5) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another  
9       group.

10       "Holocaust" means the systematic, state-sponsored,  
11 persecution and murder of six million Jews and the targeting of  
12 other groups including Roma and Sinti, political dissidents, gay  
13 men, Slavic peoples, and other individuals deemed inferior by  
14 the Nazi regime and its collaborators."

15       SECTION 3. The department of education shall submit a  
16 report on the progress of developing and implementing the  
17 statewide Holocaust and genocide curricula plan pursuant to  
18 section 2 of this Act including any findings, recommendations,  
19 and proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
21 2025.



1 SECTION 4. 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 2024-2025 for  
4 the development and implementation of the Holocaust and genocide  
5 curricula required pursuant to section 302A- , Hawaii Revised  
6 Statutes.

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

9 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
10 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
11 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
12 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
13 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
14 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
15 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
16 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
17 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
18 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
19 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
20 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by





1 § or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
2 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

3 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
4 serve the public interest; and

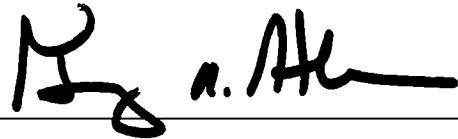
5 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
6 addressed by this Act.

7 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
9 provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 2839

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Holocaust; Genocide; Curricula;  
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to develop and implement a Holocaust and genocide curricula. Appropriates funds.

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