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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 the current state of  
2 interscholastic sports in Hawaii does not address situations  
3 where a student is unable to participate in school sports simply  
4 because their school does not offer the athletic program the  
5 student is interested in. The legislature further finds that  
6 this gap in accessibility disproportionately impacts students  
7 who attend public charter schools, which may not have the  
8 resources to offer a variety of athletic programs. The absence  
9 of athletic programs in these schools can hinder students'  
10 physical, emotional, and social development and deprive them of  
11 potential scholarship opportunities.

12           The purpose of this Act is to allow students enrolled in a  
13 public charter school the ability to participate in an athletic  
14 program offered at the public school the student would have  
15 attended if the student did not attend the public charter school  
16 or, if that public school does not offer the student's desired



1 sport, then in an athletic program offered at any other public  
2 school within the student's complex area.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall be known as the "Access to  
4 Athletics Act".

5 SECTION 3. Section 302D-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§302D-31 Athletics.** The department shall provide  
8 students at charter schools, including students enrolled at  
9 charter schools whose curriculum incorporates virtual education,  
10 with the same opportunity to participate in athletics as is  
11 provided to students at department schools. If a student at any  
12 charter school wishes to participate in a sport for which there  
13 is no athletic program at the charter school, the department  
14 shall allow that student to participate in a comparable program  
15 at ~~the~~ a department school in the ~~service~~ complex area in  
16 which the student resides~~[-]~~; provided that if the department  
17 school in the service area where the student would attend, if  
18 the student was not otherwise enrolled at a charter school,  
19 offers an athletic program for the sport in which the student  
20 wishes to participate, the student shall participate in the  
21 athletic program at that department school and may not



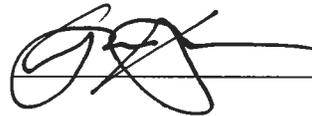
1 participate in an athletic program at a different department  
2 school within the same complex area. All charter school  
3 students participating in athletics shall abide by all rules,  
4 regulations, and policies of the athletic league, association,  
5 and program applicable to the department school in whose  
6 athletic program the student is participating."

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

10

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2024



# H.B. NO. 2061

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Charter Schools; Athletics; Comparable Programs

**Description:**

Allows a public charter school student who wishes to participate in a sport for which there is no athletic program at the student's charter school the ability to participate in a comparable program at any department school in the complex area where the student resides. Specifies that if the department school in the student's service area offers the student's desired athletic program, the student must participate in that athletic program and may not participate in an athletic program at a different department school in the same complex area.

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

