
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 American Academy
2 of Pediatrics recommends that the first school bell ring no
3 earlier than 8:30 a.m. nationwide. Early school start times are
4 associated with students sleeping less, and, along with
5 irritability and fatigue, students who sleep less may experience
6 difficulty paying attention in class, negatively affecting
7 students' academic performance. In Hawaii, all but five public
8 high schools begin their school days before 8:30 a.m.

9 The purpose of this Act is to require all public
10 elementary, middle, and high schools to start school days no
11 earlier than 8:30 a.m.

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

15 "§302A- School day start time. (a) Notwithstanding any
16 other law to the contrary, beginning with the - school
17 year, all public elementary, middle, and high schools in the



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1 State, excluding charter schools, shall begin no earlier than
2 8:30 a.m.; provided that regardless of school day start time,
3 each school shall be subject to the minimum instructional time
4 requirements under section 302A-251.

5 (b) The board, in its discretion, may grant a waiver to
6 any school that is subject to the start time requirements of
7 this section. The board shall adopt policies and procedures to
8 grant a waiver under this subsection.

9 (c) For purposes of this section, "school day" includes a
10 "zero period", or an extra period offered before the start of
11 regular classes."

12 SECTION 3. The department of education shall adjust state-
13 provided school bus and school meal schedules for public schools
14 to align with the school day start times set forth in section 2
15 of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2024



H.B. NO. 2574

Report Title:

DOE; School Days; Start Time

Description:

Beginning with the - school year, requires public elementary, middle, and high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Requires the Department of Education to adjust state-provided bus and school meal schedules accordingly.

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

