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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
COMMISSION, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE PRACTICES OF MANAGING  
HEAT EXPOSURE IN DEPARTMENT AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROTECT  
STUDENTS' HEALTH DURING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has experienced rising air temperatures,  
2 with annual peak averages consistently breaking record highs;  
3 and  
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5 WHEREAS, these increases, along with Hawaii's high average  
6 annual relative humidity, pose significant challenges for human  
7 thermoregulation; and  
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9 WHEREAS, exercising in hot and humid weather can be  
10 dangerous, as the body's ability to cool itself through sweating  
11 becomes less effective under humid conditions; and  
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13 WHEREAS, when sweat cannot evaporate efficiently due to  
14 high moisture levels in the air, the risk of heat-related  
15 illnesses increases; and  
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17 WHEREAS, children and younger athletes are particularly  
18 vulnerable to exertional heat illness due to slower heat  
19 acclimatization, reduced thermoregulation capabilities compared  
20 to adults, and external pressures from coaches and parents to  
21 exceed their physical limits; and  
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23 WHEREAS, additionally, children often lack control over the  
24 timing and conditions of outdoor activities, such as recess and  
25 individual or team practices, and may have limited access to  
26 hydration during these activities; and  
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28 WHEREAS, shade can significantly reduce the risk of heat-  
29 related illnesses by providing cooler spaces for students to  
30 exercise, train, and play; and



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2 WHEREAS, expanding shaded areas on school campuses and  
3 properties is critical for creating safer environments during  
4 outdoor activities; and  
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6 WHEREAS, identifying and developing areas on campuses to  
7 increase shade access is an essential strategy for protecting  
8 children from dangerous levels of heat; and  
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10 WHEREAS, wet-bulb globe temperature measurements are the  
11 gold standard for assessing heat stress, as adopted by  
12 organizations such as the United States military, Occupational  
13 Safety and Health Administration, National Collegiate Athletic  
14 Association, and professional sports leagues; and  
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16 WHEREAS, wet-bulb globe thermometers are also relatively  
17 affordable for schools and athletic departments to acquire and  
18 use, making them a practical tool for ensuring safer outdoor  
19 activities; and  
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21 WHEREAS, despite these known challenges and expected  
22 increasing temperatures, Hawaii currently lacks statewide  
23 guidelines for managing extreme heat during outdoor recreational  
24 activities, leaving children at risk of preventable heat-related  
25 illnesses; and  
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27 WHEREAS, an in-depth study is necessary to determine the  
28 best practices for managing heat exposure and to develop a plan  
29 if the existing practices are insufficient in ensuring student  
30 safety from heat exposure; now, therefore,  
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
34 of 2025, that the Department of Education, in collaboration with  
35 the Department of Health and State Public Charter School  
36 Commission, is requested to conduct a study on the practices of  
37 managing heat exposure in department and charter schools to  
38 protect students' health during outdoor activities; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its study, the Department of  
41 Education is requested to look at the feasibility of using a wet



1 bulb globe temperature as a standard for measuring heat stress;  
2 and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Department of Education  
5 determines that the existing practices are insufficient in  
6 safeguarding the well-being of students from heat exposure in  
7 the course of conducting the study, the Department is requested  
8 to develop a plan that includes guidelines for managing heat  
9 exposure to protect students' health during outdoor activities;  
10 provided that the guidelines:  
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- 12 (1) Apply to all department and charter schools in the  
13 State;  
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- 15 (2) Be utilized for sports practices, conditioning  
16 workouts, recess, marching band practice, junior  
17 reserve officers' training corps activities, and other  
18 outdoor activities;  
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- 20 (3) Include protocols for ensuring adequate hydration  
21 during outdoor activities;  
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- 23 (4) Include training for school staff on recognizing and  
24 responding to symptoms of exertional heat illness;  
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- 26 (5) Include measures to safeguard students with medical  
27 conditions or medications that impair  
28 thermoregulation; and  
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- 30 (6) Include recommendations for acclimatizing or re-  
31 acclimatizing students returning to outdoor activities  
32 after a period of absence; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
35 requested to assess the ongoing cost of guideline implementation  
36 and continued maintenance and include the assessment in the  
37 Department's study; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
40 requested to submit the study, including any findings,  
41 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
2 Session of 2026; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should a plan be developed by  
5 the Department of Education, the Department is requested to  
6 complete and submit the plan to the Legislature no later than  
7 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
8 2027; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Resolution be transmitted to Superintendent of Education,  
12 Director of Health, and Chairperson of the State Public Charter  
13 School Commission.  
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OFFERED BY:

*Lisa Marten*

MAR 07 2025

