
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GRAFFITI.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that graffiti is a visual
2 blight on schools, bus stops, freeway walls, road signs,
3 buildings, and other public and private property statewide. In
4 particular, there has been an increase of graffiti on Oahu,
5 despite efforts to eradicate it by residents, student and
6 community groups, and neighborhoods throughout the island. The
7 department of transportation estimates that it spends
8 approximately \$25,000 to paint over one hundred fifty thousand
9 square feet of graffiti each year. In addition to the social
10 ill-effects and property damage caused by graffiti, the dyes
11 used in the paints and markers are environmental pollutants,
12 especially when the chemical products end up mixed into runoff
13 water that finds its way into drains and waterways, thus
14 creating a health hazard for Hawaii's people.

15 Graffiti vandalism is a crime punishable by fines and jail
16 sentences. In addition, civil penalties may be imposed on both
17 those who cause graffiti damage and their parents. Despite
18 these strict consequences, the legislature finds that more needs



1 to be done to educate Hawaii's youth on the various negative
2 effects of graffiti. The purpose of this Act is to require the
3 department of education to create educational programs for
4 teenagers to educate them on the economic, environmental,
5 criminal, and social costs of graffiti.

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

9 "§302A- Graffiti prevention programs. (a) The
10 department shall develop and coordinate educational
11 presentations to be given to all students entering the ninth
12 grade that informs those students on the economic,
13 environmental, criminal, and social costs of graffiti.

14 (b) The department shall develop a graffiti awareness
15 program that includes presentations from relevant groups and
16 agencies on the negative consequences of graffiti. The
17 department may collaborate with any interested groups in the
18 development of this program, including but not limited to the
19 county police departments, environmental groups, community
20 agencies, student organizations, and others who have undertaken
21 efforts to eradicate graffiti.



1 As used in this section, "graffiti" means any unauthorized
 2 drawing, inscription, figure, or marking created by paint, ink,
 3 chalk, dye, or similar substances."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Graffiti

Description:

Requires the department of education to create graffiti prevention programs to raise awareness in students.

