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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 167, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 2010, created mandatory instructional hour  
3 requirements for public schools in response to instructional  
4 time lost due to staff furloughs.

5       The legislature acknowledges that while Act 167 was well-  
6 intentioned, its mandate inhibited the autonomy of public  
7 schools to create bell schedules that worked best for each  
8 school's individual circumstances. The legislature believes  
9 that each public school has a unique student body and a unique  
10 community that creates different challenges and opportunities  
11 for each school. The legislature further finds that each public  
12 school should have the autonomy and flexibility to determine its  
13 own school hours to meet these unique challenges. The  
14 legislature notes that public charter schools already have this  
15 authority and are exempt from the mandatory student hour  
16 requirement of Act 167.



1       The purpose of this Act is to give each public school  
2       principal the authority to determine student hour requirements  
3       for their own school, based on each school's individual needs,  
4       beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

5       SECTION 2. Section 302A-251, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6       amended to read as follows:

7       "**§302A-251 School year**[~~;- student hours~~]. (a)

8       Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, beginning with  
9       the 2011-2013 school years, all public schools, excluding  
10      charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall implement  
11      a school year of one hundred eighty days, excluding professional  
12      development days and other non-instructional days negotiated  
13      pursuant to chapter 89.

14      (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary:

15      (1) For the 2011-2012 school year, fifty per cent of all  
16      public elementary schools in the State, excluding  
17      charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall  
18      implement a school year that includes nine hundred  
19      fifteen student hours; and

20      (2) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all public  
21      elementary schools in the State, excluding charter



1 schools and multi-track public schools, shall  
2 implement a school year that includes nine hundred  
3 fifteen student hours.

4 (c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for the  
5 2015-2016 school year, all public secondary schools, excluding  
6 charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall implement  
7 a school year that includes nine hundred ninety student hours.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,  
9 beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, all public schools,  
10 excluding charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall  
11 implement a school year of one hundred eighty days, excluding  
12 professional development days and other non-instructional days  
13 negotiated pursuant to chapter 89, that shall include one  
14 thousand eighty student hours for both elementary and secondary  
15 school grades.

16 (e) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,  
17 beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, all public schools,  
18 excluding charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall  
19 implement a school year of one hundred eighty days, excluding  
20 professional development days and other non-instructional days  
21 negotiated pursuant to chapter 89. The principal of each school



1 shall determine that school's total number of student hours  
2 required for each school year for both elementary and secondary  
3 school grades.

4 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The board, in its discretion, may grant a waiver  
5 to any individual school subject to the student hours or one  
6 hundred eighty day school year requirements in this section.

7 The board shall adopt policies and procedures to grant a waiver  
8 under this subsection.

9 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) For purposes of this section, "student hours"  
10 shall be inclusive of the full school day in alignment with the  
11 State's general learner outcomes.

12 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The department of education, with the board of  
13 education and office of the governor, and in consultation with  
14 representatives of the affected collective bargaining units,  
15 shall submit to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior  
16 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2013, 2014, 2015,  
17 ~~[and]~~ 2016, and 2019, a report on its progress and efforts to  
18 meet the requirements of subsections (a) ~~[(b), (c), and (d).]~~  
19 through (e)."

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



# H.B. NO. 2628

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2018



# H.B. NO. 2628

**Report Title:**

DOE; Education; Mandatory Student Hours

**Description:**

Removes mandatory student hour requirements for public schools, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. Requires principals to determine the total number of student hours required for their school.

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

