

JAN 19 2018

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO SCHOOL CLOSURES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that each school's  
2   ability to cope with natural disasters and emergencies is  
3   unique, and that a quick and timely school closure could be the  
4   difference between a safe and unsafe evacuation for student and  
5   faculty. The legislature further finds that the school's  
6   principals is the most qualified administrator to make this  
7   decision in a timely fashion, and requiring additional  
8   procedures prior to closing the school, such as consulting with  
9   a complex area superintendent, could impede the timely  
10  evacuation of the school.

11       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to give school  
12  principals the authority to close schools due to natural  
13  disasters without the express need to consult with the complex  
14  area superintendent.

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



1       "§302A- School closure. A school may be closed down due  
2 to natural disaster by the school principal if the school  
3 principal determines that the natural disaster creates unsafe  
4 conditions for students and faculty. The school principal may  
5 make this decision to close the school down without consultation  
6 and approval from the complex area superintendent."

7       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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# S.B. NO. 2381

**Report Title:**

School Closure; Natural Disasters

**Description:**

Allows school principals to close the school due to natural disaster without needing to consult the complex area superintendent if conditions are deemed unsafe for students and faculty.

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