
A BILL FOR AN ACT

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 a school's
6 principal 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 in the case of an emergency.

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 in the case of
7 an emergency."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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Report Title:

School Closure; Natural Disasters

Description:

Allows school principals to close the school due to natural disaster if conditions are deemed unsafe for students and faculty without needing to consult the complex area superintendent in the case of an emergency. (SD1)

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