
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 make
4 the difference between a safe and unsafe evacuation for student
5 and faculty. The legislature further finds that a school's
6 principal is the most qualified administrator to make the
7 decision to close a school in a timely fashion and that
8 requiring additional procedures prior to closing the school,
9 such as consulting with a complex area superintendent, could
10 impede the timely evacuation of the school.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to give school
12 principals the authority to close schools due to emergencies
13 created by natural disasters without needing to consult with the
14 complex 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's principal may close
2 the school in the event of an emergency created by a natural
3 disaster if the school's principal determines that the natural
4 disaster creates unsafe conditions for students and faculty.
5 The school's principal may make this decision without
6 consultation with, and approval from, the complex area
7 superintendent."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

School Closure; Natural Disasters

Description:

Allows a school's principal to close the school without needing to consult the complex area superintendent in the event of an emergency created by a natural disaster if conditions are deemed unsafe for students and faculty. (SD2)

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