
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pursuant to section
2 302A-1140, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the board of education is
3 required to excuse any student absence caused by the observation
4 of a religious holy day. However, the legislature recognizes
5 that students may also miss school due to the observation of
6 other religious practices. Further, while absences for the
7 observation of religious holy days are treated as excused
8 absences in certain circumstances, the legislature believes that
9 absences caused by the observation of other religious practices
10 should not be considered absences of any kind, nor should these
11 absences prevent an otherwise eligible student from receiving
12 perfect attendance.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to extend the
14 requirement that the board of education release from school
15 attendance students observing religious holy days to include the
16 observation of other religious practices.



1 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1140, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 " [†] §302A-1140 [†] Religious [~~holy days.~~] practices. (a)

4 The board shall release any public school student from school
5 attendance for the purpose of observing religious holy days that
6 fall on regularly scheduled school days, when the release is
7 requested in writing by a parent, guardian, or other person
8 having custody or control of the pupil. Actual attendance at
9 observances shall count as an excused absence at the public
10 schools for all purposes where attendance forms the basis of
11 computation.

12 (b) The board shall release any public school student from
13 school attendance for the purpose of observing a religious
14 practice not otherwise addressed in subsection (a) that occurs
15 during a regularly scheduled school day, when the release is
16 requested in writing by a parent, guardian, or other person
17 having custody or control of the pupil; provided that an absence
18 from school for the purpose of observing a religious practice
19 pursuant to this subsection shall not be deemed an absence of
20 any kind and shall not prohibit any student from achieving
21 perfect attendance.



1 (c) For the purposes of this section, "religious practice"
2 means a significant event connected with a deeply held religious
3 belief."

4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

BOE; Attendance; Religious Practices

Description:

Expands the requirement that the Board of Education release from school attendance students observing holy days to also include the observation of other religious practices. Takes effect on 7/1/2050. (HD2)

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

