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## 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  
9 that absences caused by the observation of other religious  
10 practices should not be considered absences of any kind, nor  
11 should these absences prevent an otherwise eligible student from  
12 receiving 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 holy days to the observation of  
16 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 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

*C. J. K. Cook*  
*W. A. R. -*  
*R. J. -*

JAN 17 2020



# H.B. NO. 1988

**Report Title:**

BOE; Attendance; Religious Practices

**Description:**

Extends the requirement that the Board of Education release from school attendance students observing holy days to the observation of other religious practices.

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

