

JAN 21 2022

S.B. NO. 2553

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE IDLING.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that emissions from motor  
2 vehicles are one of the greatest sources of manmade pollution on  
3 Earth. An idling vehicle releases harmful chemicals, gases, and  
4 particle pollution into the air, contributing to ozone, regional  
5 haze, and global climate change. Every gallon of gas burned  
6 produces more than twenty pounds of greenhouse gases.

7       Research from the United States Environmental Protection  
8 Agency confirms that personal vehicles generate about thirty  
9 million tons of carbon dioxide every year, while eliminating  
10 this practice entirely would be the equivalent of taking five  
11 million vehicles off the road during the same period.

12       Research by the United States Department of Energy Argonne  
13 National Laboratory confirms that idling for more than ten  
14 seconds uses more fuel and emits more carbon dioxide than engine  
15 restarting.

16       Reducing idling is especially important for children, who  
17 are particularly vulnerable to this air pollution because their



1 lungs are still developing and they breathe faster than adults.  
2 On average, children breathe fifty per cent more air per pound  
3 of body weight than adults do, and due to their height, they are  
4 closer to the ground and therefore closer to vehicle tailpipes.  
5 The pollution in exhaust can aggravate asthma and allergies, as  
6 well as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Higher levels  
7 of air pollution have been linked to increased school absences,  
8 hospital visits, and even premature deaths. Vehicle emissions  
9 are still present and harmful even when exhaust is not visible.  
10 Just one vehicle dropping off and picking up children at school  
11 releases three pounds of air pollution each month. There are  
12 many health problems associated with air pollution for both  
13 children and adults, including asthma, cardiovascular disease,  
14 and cancer.

15 The legislature finds that it is just as important to  
16 protect children from exhaust fumes as it is to protect them  
17 from second-hand cigarette smoke.

18 The legislature further finds that although state law  
19 prohibits excessive idling in loading zones, parking and service  
20 areas, route terminals, and other off-street areas, the practice  
21 is becoming increasingly common, especially at department of



1 education facilities where children are exposed to automotive  
2 fumes on a daily basis.

3 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of  
4 education to enforce the state prohibition on excessive idling  
5 and to develop pick-up and drop-off procedures that do not  
6 endanger the health and well-being of Hawaii's children by  
7 exposure to exhaust fumes.

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

11 "§302A- Excessive idling prohibition enforcement. The  
12 department of education shall enforce the state prohibition on  
13 excessive idling. Additionally, the department of education  
14 shall develop new procedures for all school pick-up and drop-off  
15 areas with the goal of minimizing the exposure of exhaust fumes  
16 to children."

17 SECTION 3. The department of education, department of  
18 health, and the Hawaii state energy office shall collaborate on  
19 the development and implementation of a new campaign called  
20 "Bridle the Idle" with the goal of educating the general public,



1 business community, and visitors about the impacts of excessive  
2 idling while informing them that the practice is illegal.

3 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Jana Acasio*



# S.B. NO. 2553

**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicle Emissions; Climate Change; Department of Education

**Description:**

Directs the Department of Education to enforce the prohibition on excessive motor vehicle idling, develop pick-up and drop-off procedures at schools to minimize child exposure to exhaust fumes, and collaborate with the Department of Health and the Hawaii State Energy Office to create the "Bridle the Idle" campaign to educate people on the harmful effects of idling as well as its illegality.

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

