
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ASTHMA.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to the
2 department of health, more than one hundred ten thousand Hawaii
3 residents are living with asthma and approximately one-third of
4 those are children. The chronic respiratory disease occurs most
5 commonly among those eleven years of age and younger. Every
6 year, some five thousand people in Hawaii visit emergency rooms
7 due to asthma and another one thousand five hundred are
8 hospitalized. Infants and very young children make up the
9 majority of asthma-related medical emergencies and
10 hospitalizations. Every year, asthma costs the state
11 approximately \$4,200,000 in emergency room visits and
12 approximately \$14,000,000 in hospitalizations. Although the
13 asthma mortality rate has declined over the past ten years,
14 there was an average of twenty-two deaths per year from asthma
15 in Hawaii between 2013 and 2015.

16 The legislature further finds that published research
17 funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the



1 Journal of School Health has shown that students who engage in
2 school-based asthma education experienced significantly fewer
3 days with activity limitations and significantly fewer nights of
4 sleep disturbance after participation in the intervention. For
5 health care utilization, students reported significantly less
6 frequent emergency department visits or hospitalizations between
7 the baseline and follow-up surveys. School-based asthma
8 curriculum designed specifically for urban students has been
9 shown to reduce symptoms, activity limitations, and health care
10 utilization for intervention participants.

11 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
12 education to offer optional asthma education instruction to
13 students and to require teachers and other department employees
14 to obtain asthma training.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart C, to be
17 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

18 "§302A- Asthma education instruction. (a) The
19 department shall offer optional asthma self-management
20 instruction to students with asthma. The instruction shall be
21 age-appropriate and the topics shall include:



1 (1) Asthma facts, physiology, and early warning signs;

2 (2) Symptoms and triggers of asthma; and

3 (3) Asthma self-management skills.

4 (b) The department may coordinate with any public or
5 private entity to provide the instruction required under this
6 section.

7 (c) The department may use existing educational and
8 training resources available in the public and private sectors
9 when developing the instruction required under this section."

10 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to part III, subpart B, to be
12 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

13 "§302A- Asthma training. (a) The department shall
14 develop and provide required asthma training to teachers and
15 other department employees who interact with students. The
16 training required under this section shall include recognizing
17 asthma and asthma management.

18 (b) The department shall allow parents and guardians of
19 students and any other department employee to attend the
20 training at no cost.



1 (c) The department shall set the standards and frequency
2 for the training and may coordinate as necessary with any public
3 or private entity to provide the training required under this
4 section.

5 (d) The department may use existing educational and
6 training resources available in the public and private sectors
7 when developing the training required under this section."

8 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Asthma; Department of Education; Training; Teachers; Instruction

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to offer optional asthma education instruction to students and provide mandatory asthma training to teachers and other department employees who interact with students. Effective 7/1/2023. (SD1)

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

