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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that following the Maui  
2 wildfires in August 2023, the speaker of the state house of  
3 representatives established six bipartisan interim working  
4 groups tasked with evaluating specific topics in the aftermath  
5 of the wildfires and making recommendations for appropriate  
6 legislative action in the regular session of 2024. Members of  
7 the working groups collaborated with federal, state, and county  
8 agencies, along with community stakeholders and interested  
9 parties, to identify immediate issues that require temporary or  
10 transitional relief for the people and businesses of west Maui.

11           The legislature further finds that the schools working  
12 group was specifically tasked with evaluating strategies  
13 utilized to accommodate displaced students and staff to return  
14 to school and preparing recommendations for appropriate  
15 legislative action. All working groups released a joint final  
16 report in December 2023 detailing their findings and  
17 recommendations.



1           The purpose of this Act is to adopt the recommendation of  
2 the schools working group by:

3           (1) Requiring the department of education to grant public  
4 access to emergency action plans that do not pose a  
5 security risk to students, staff, or guests of school  
6 campuses;

7           (2) Requiring each department school to have a  
8 comprehensive school evacuation communication plan for  
9 use during emergencies;

10          (3) Requiring the department of education to collaborate  
11 with the department of transportation to assess all  
12 department school campuses to determine if there are  
13 sufficient emergency evacuation routes for each  
14 campus; and

15          (4) Appropriating funds to the department of education for  
16 the creation of emergency action plans and  
17 establishment and implementation of a comprehensive  
18 evacuation communication plan for each department of  
19 education school.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 **"§302A- Emergency action plans; public access. (a)**

5 The department shall create emergency action plans for each  
6 department school and allow for public access to the plans;  
7 provided that access to the emergency action plans does not pose  
8 a security risk to students, staff, or guests visiting a school  
9 campus.

10 (b) The emergency action plans shall include standards  
11 that would trigger the closure of a school, including weather  
12 and other environmental situations.

13 **§302A- Comprehensive evacuation communication plan;**

14 **evacuations; emergencies. (a) Each department school shall**  
15 **establish and implement a comprehensive evacuation communication**  
16 **plan for evacuations and other emergencies.**

17 (b) Each school evacuation communication plan shall  
18 include the following:

19 (1) Identification of key stakeholders and communication  
20 channels, including students, parents, guardians,  
21 staff, and emergency responders, to properly identify



1           how the school will communicate with each group  
2           before, during, and after an evacuation or other  
3           emergency situation;  
4        (2) Development of:  
5            (A) A communication protocol to establish clear and  
6                concise messages and identify who is responsible  
7                for communicating each message; and  
8            (B) A process to update the communication protocol  
9                developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) as needed;  
10       (3) Regular testing and rehearsing of the communication  
11           plan to ensure that the plan is effective and all  
12           individuals involved know their roles and  
13           responsibilities;  
14       (4) Cultural awareness and responsiveness to language  
15           access needs of the community and accessibility needs  
16           of students and individuals with disabilities;  
17           provided that the department shall work with language  
18           access experts to supports schools in the development  
19           of the communication plan; and



1       (5) Involvement of the community through input from  
2       students, parents, guardians, staff, and emergency  
3       responders.

4       (c) The school evacuation communication plan and any  
5       updates to the plan shall be shared with all students, parents,  
6       guardians, and staff at the beginning of the school year  
7       through:

8       (1) Posting on the appropriate school's website and social  
9       media pages; and

10       (2) Sending a copy of the plan to each student's parents  
11       or guardians.

12       (d) Schools shall collect and maintain up-to-date contact  
13       information for all students, parents, and guardians at the  
14       beginning of the school year and update the information as  
15       needed. Annual reminders to update contact information shall be  
16       sent to each student's parents or guardians."

17       SECTION 3. (a) The department of education, in  
18       collaboration with the department of transportation, shall  
19       assess all department of education school campuses and determine  
20       if there are sufficient emergency evacuation routes for each  
21       campus.



1 (b). The department of education shall report its findings  
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 the regular session of 2025.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to  
8 the department of education for:

9 (1) The creation of the emergency action plans pursuant to  
10 section 2 of this Act; and

11 (2) The establishment and implementation of a  
12 comprehensive evacuation communication plan for each  
13 department of education school pursuant to section 2  
14 of this Act.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 education for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
18 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
19 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
20 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
21 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be



1 exceeded by \$                    or            per cent. In addition, the  
2 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
3 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
4 exceeded by \$                    or            per cent. The combined total  
5 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
6 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
7 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
8 \$                    or            per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
9 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 10        (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
11            serve the public interest; and
- 12        (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
13            addressed by this Act.

14        SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

15        SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Emergency Action Plans; Comprehensive School Evacuation Communication Plans; Department of Transportation; Evacuation Routes; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education to grant public access to emergency action plans that do not pose a security risk to students, staff, or guests of school campuses. Requires each Department school to have a comprehensive school evacuation communication plan for use during emergencies. Requires the Department of Education to collaborate with the Department of Transportation to assess all Department school campuses to determine if there are sufficient emergency evacuation routes for each campus and report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

