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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that coronavirus disease  
2 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has changed the way schools operate,  
3 including creating additional processes and procedures to keep  
4 children as safe as possible from getting COVID-19. Pursuant to  
5 Act 4, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, the department of  
6 education publishes a weekly report on schools that have a  
7 student, staff member, or affiliated individual who has tested  
8 positive for COVID-19. However, it is a fine balance between  
9 reporting of COVID-19 cases and an individual's right to  
10 privacy, especially when it comes to publicly sharing case  
11 information involving children. When a COVID-19 case is  
12 identified, the department's safety protocol requires immediate  
13 notification to individuals who may have come into close contact  
14 with the infected person, while maintaining confidentiality in  
15 accordance with state and federal law.

16           The legislature further finds that frequency of disclosure  
17 by the department of education regarding COVID-19 case



1 information could affect the department's ability to protect  
2 individuals from being identified, harassed, and socially  
3 discriminated against. Further, public schools are facing  
4 difficulty with minimizing classroom disruptions due to the  
5 increased level of inquiries beyond the immediate school  
6 community.

7       The legislature notes that as of August 1, 2022, the  
8 department of education no longer requires masking indoors on  
9 its school campuses due to the changes in public health  
10 guidelines from the department of health. Coupled with the  
11 prevalence of home testing, it has become increasingly difficult  
12 to accurately report on the number of COVID-19 cases at schools.  
13 The department will continue to enforce its overlapping  
14 mitigation strategies of practicing good hand washing hygiene,  
15 staying home when sick, and promoting vaccinations.

16       The purpose of this Act is to repeal the department of  
17 education's COVID-19 weekly reporting requirements as mandated  
18 by Act 4, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2021.

19       SECTION 2. Act 4, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, is  
20 repealed.



**1** SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Schools; Report; COVID-19

**Description:**

Repeals the department of education's weekly report on schools that have reported positive COVID-19 cases. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

