
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 August
2 2023 Maui wildfires, 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) The
5 department shall create emergency action plans for each
6 department school.

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

10 §302A- Comprehensive evacuation communication plan;
11 evacuations; emergencies. (a) Each department school shall
12 establish and implement a comprehensive evacuation communication
13 plan for evacuations and other emergencies.

14 (b) Each school evacuation communication plan shall
15 include the following:

16 (1) Identification of key stakeholders and communication
17 channels, including students, parents, guardians,
18 staff, and emergency responders, to properly identify
19 how the school will communicate with each group
20 before, during, and after an evacuation or other
21 emergency situation;



- 1 (2) Development of:
- 2 (A) A communication protocol to establish clear and
- 3 concise messages and identify who is responsible
- 4 for communicating each message; and
- 5 (B) A process to update the communication protocol
- 6 developed pursuant to subparagraph (A) as needed;
- 7 (3) Regular testing and rehearsing of the communication
- 8 plan to ensure that the plan is effective and all
- 9 individuals involved know their roles and
- 10 responsibilities;
- 11 (4) Cultural awareness and responsiveness to language
- 12 access needs of the community and accessibility needs
- 13 of students and individuals with disabilities;
- 14 provided that the department shall work with language
- 15 access experts to support schools in the development
- 16 of the communication plan; and
- 17 (5) Involvement of the community through input from
- 18 students, parents, guardians, staff, and emergency
- 19 responders.
- 20 (c) The school evacuation communication plan and any
- 21 updates to the plan shall be shared with all students, parents,



1 guardians, and staff at the beginning of the school year
2 through:

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

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

7 (d) Schools shall collect and maintain up-to-date contact
8 information for all students, parents, and guardians at the
9 beginning of the school year and parents and guardians shall
10 contact and provide schools with updated contact information
11 throughout the school year as needed. Annual reminders to
12 update contact information shall be sent to each student's
13 parents or guardians."

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

19 (b) The department of education shall report its findings
20 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2025.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

12 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

DOE; DOT; Emergency Action Plans; Comprehensive School
Evacuation Communication Plans; Evacuation Routes; Expenditure
Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to create emergency access plans for each Department school. 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. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

