

JAN 17 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the American Academy  
2 of Pediatrics recommends that the first school bell ring no  
3 earlier than 8:30 a.m. nationwide. Early school start times are  
4 associated with students sleeping less, and, along with  
5 irritability and fatigue, students who sleep less may experience  
6 difficulty paying attention in class, negatively affecting  
7 students' academic performance. In Hawaii, all but five public  
8 high schools begin their school days before 8:30 a.m.

9           The purpose of this Act is to require all public  
10 elementary, middle, and high schools to start school days no  
11 earlier than 8:30 a.m.

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

15           "§302A- School day start time. (a) Notwithstanding any  
16 other law to the contrary, beginning with the - school  
17 year, all public elementary, middle, and high schools in the



1 State, excluding charter schools, shall begin no earlier than  
 2 8:30 a.m.; provided that regardless of school day start time,  
 3 each school shall be subject to the minimum instructional time  
 4 requirements under section 302A-251.

5 (b) The board, in its discretion, may grant a waiver to  
 6 any school that is subject to the start time requirements of  
 7 this section. The board shall adopt policies and procedures to  
 8 grant a waiver under this subsection.

9 (c) For purposes of this section, "school day" includes a  
 10 "zero period", or an extra period offered before the start of  
 11 regular classes."

12 SECTION 3. The department of education shall adjust state-  
 13 provided school bus and school meal schedules for public schools  
 14 to align with the school day start times set forth in section 2  
 15 of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 2016

**Report Title:**

DOE; School Days; Start Time

**Description:**

Beginning with the - school year, requires public elementary, middle, and high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Requires the Department of Education to adjust state-provided bus and school meal schedules accordingly.

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

