
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has
2 experienced rising air temperatures, with annual peak averages
3 consistently breaking record highs. These increases, along with
4 Hawaii's high average annual relative humidity, pose significant
5 challenges for human thermoregulation.

6 The legislature further finds that exercising in hot and
7 humid weather can be dangerous, as the body's ability to cool
8 itself through sweating becomes less effective under humid
9 conditions. When sweat cannot evaporate efficiently due to high
10 moisture levels in the air, the risk of heat-related illnesses
11 increases.

12 The legislature also finds that children and younger
13 athletes are particularly vulnerable to exertional heat illness
14 due to slower heat acclimatization, reduced thermoregulation
15 capabilities compared to adults, and external pressures from
16 coaches and parents to exceed their physical limits.
17 Additionally, children often lack control over the timing and



1 conditions of outdoor activities, such as recess and sports
2 practices, and may have limited access to hydration during these
3 activities.

4 The legislature further finds that shade can significantly
5 reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses by providing cooler
6 spaces for students to exercise, train, and play. Expanding
7 shaded areas on school campuses and properties is critical for
8 creating safer environments during outdoor activities.
9 Additionally, identifying and developing areas on campuses to
10 increase shade access is an essential strategy for protecting
11 children from dangerous levels of heat.

12 The legislature also finds that wet-bulb globe temperature
13 measurements are the gold standard for assessing heat stress, as
14 adopted by organizations such as the United States military,
15 Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National
16 Collegiate Athletic Association, and professional sports
17 leagues. Wet-bulb globe thermometers are also relatively
18 affordable for schools and athletic departments to acquire and
19 use, making them a practical tool for ensuring safer outdoor
20 activities.



1 Despite these known challenges and expected increasing
2 temperatures, Hawaii currently lacks statewide guidelines for
3 managing extreme heat during outdoor recreational activities,
4 leaving children at risk of preventable heat-related illnesses.
5 Therefore, purpose of this Act is to:

6 (1) Require and appropriate funds for the department of
7 education, in collaboration with the department of
8 health, to develop statewide guidelines related to
9 managing heat exposure to protect students' health
10 during outdoor activities; and

11 (2) Appropriate funds for wet-bulb globe temperature
12 thermometers for all public and charter schools
13 statewide.

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

17 "§302A- Guidelines for outdoor activities during
18 extreme heat. (a) The department, in collaboration with the
19 department of health, shall develop statewide guidelines for
20 managing heat exposure to protect students' health during
21 outdoor activities. These guidelines shall:



- 1 (1) Apply to all public and charter schools in the State;
2 (2) Be utilized for sports practices, conditioning
3 workouts, recess, marching band practice, junior
4 reserve officers' training corps activities, and other
5 outdoor activities;
6 (3) Be based on wet-bulb globe temperature as the standard
7 for measuring heat stress; and
8 (4) Include recommendations for expanding shaded areas on
9 campuses to provide cooler environments for exercise,
10 training, and play.
11 (b) The guidelines shall include:
12 (1) Thresholds for modifying, postponing, or canceling
13 outdoor activities based on wet-bulb glob temperature
14 measurements;
15 (2) Protocols for ensuring adequate hydration during
16 outdoor activities;
17 (3) Training for school staff on recognizing and
18 responding to symptoms of exertional heat illness;
19 (4) Measures to safeguard students with medical conditions
20 or medications that impair thermoregulation;



- 1 (5) Recommendations for acclimatizing or reacclimatizing
- 2 students returning to outdoor activities after a
- 3 period of absence; and
- 4 (6) Recommendations for schools to identify and develop
- 5 areas on campuses to expand shade access as a strategy
- 6 to improve outdoor safety and reduce heat exposure."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2026-2027 for the department of education to develop the
12 recommendations for the guidelines pursuant to this Act.

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

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$20,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2026-2027 for the department of education to provide wet-bulb
20 globe temperature thermometers to all public and charter schools
21 statewide.



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1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of education for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

5

INTRODUCED BY: *Lisa Maters*

JAN 16 2025



H.B. NO. 245

Report Title:

Department of Education; Heat Exposure; Guidelines;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health, to develop statewide guidelines related to managing heat exposure to protect students' health during outdoor activities. Appropriates funds for wet-bulb globe temperature thermometers for all public and charter schools statewide.

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