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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part I, subpart A, to be  
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4           "§302A-           Teacher, faculty, and student prayers. (a)

5 Each educational institution with students in grade  
6 kindergarten, grade six, or any intervening grade shall  
7 authorize the school's faculty and staff to provide, on a weekly  
8 or more frequent basis, time and space for students to engage in  
9 student-led group prayer or individual student prayer; provided  
10 that:

11           (1) No student of an educational institution shall be  
12 compelled, against the student's objections or the  
13 objections of the student's parent or guardian, to  
14 participate in prayer;

15           (2) No teacher or staff member of an educational  
16 institution shall admonish, discipline, or harass a



1 student based on the student's participation or non-  
2 participation in prayer; and

3 (3) No teacher or staff member of an educational  
4 institution shall be admonished, disciplined, or  
5 harassed for either deciding or declining to supervise  
6 any location in which students are praying.

7 (b) A copy of this section shall be posted in a  
8 conspicuous location at each educational institution that is  
9 subject to this section.

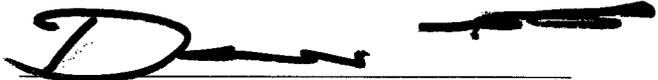
10 (c) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
11 carry out the purposes of this section."

12 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
13 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
14 begun before its effective date.

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

17

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 16 2025



# H.B. NO. 271

**Report Title:**

Education; Public Schools; Elementary Students; Student Prayer

**Description:**

Requires educational institutions with elementary students to allow faculty and staff to provide time and space for students to engage in student-led group prayer or individual student prayer. Prohibits discipline or admonishment based on participation or non-participation in prayer.

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

