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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL  
COMMISSION, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE PRACTICES OF MANAGING  
HEAT EXPOSURE IN DEPARTMENT AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROTECT  
STUDENTS' HEALTH DURING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has experienced rising air temperatures,  
2 with annual peak averages consistently breaking record highs;  
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5           WHEREAS, these increases, along with Hawaii's high average  
6 annual relative humidity, pose significant challenges for human  
7 thermoregulation; and

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9           WHEREAS, exercising in hot and humid weather can be  
10 dangerous, as the body's ability to cool itself through sweating  
11 becomes less effective under humid conditions; and

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13           WHEREAS, when sweat cannot evaporate efficiently due to  
14 high moisture levels in the air, the risk of heat-related  
15 illnesses increases; and

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17           WHEREAS, children and younger athletes are particularly  
18 vulnerable to exertional heat illness due to slower heat  
19 acclimatization, reduced thermoregulation capabilities compared  
20 to adults, and external pressures from coaches and parents to  
21 exceed their physical limits; and

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23           WHEREAS, additionally, children often lack control over the  
24 timing and conditions of outdoor activities, such as recess and  
25 individual or team practices, and may have limited access to  
26 hydration during these activities; and

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1 WHEREAS, shade can significantly reduce the risk of heat-  
2 related illnesses by providing cooler spaces for students to  
3 exercise, train, and play; and  
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5 WHEREAS, expanding shaded areas on school campuses and  
6 properties is critical for creating safer environments during  
7 outdoor activities; and  
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9 WHEREAS, identifying and developing areas on campuses to  
10 increase shade access is an essential strategy for protecting  
11 children from dangerous levels of heat; and  
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13 WHEREAS, wet-bulb globe temperature measurements are the  
14 gold standard for assessing heat stress, as adopted by  
15 organizations such as the United States military, Occupational  
16 Safety and Health Administration, National Collegiate Athletic  
17 Association, and professional sports leagues; and  
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19 WHEREAS, wet-bulb globe thermometers are also relatively  
20 affordable for schools and athletic departments to acquire and  
21 use, making them a practical tool for ensuring safer outdoor  
22 activities; and  
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24 WHEREAS, despite these known challenges and expected  
25 increasing temperatures, Hawaii currently lacks statewide  
26 guidelines for managing extreme heat during outdoor recreational  
27 activities, leaving children at risk of preventable heat-related  
28 illnesses; and  
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30 WHEREAS, an in-depth study is necessary to determine the  
31 best practices for managing heat exposure and to develop a plan  
32 if the existing practices are insufficient in ensuring student  
33 safety from heat exposure; now, therefore,  
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
37 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
38 Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and  
39 State Public Charter School Commission, is requested to conduct  
40 a study on the practices of managing heat exposure in department  
41 and charter schools to protect students' health during outdoor  
42 activities; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its study, the Department of Education is requested to look at the feasibility of using a wet bulb globe temperature as a standard for measuring heat stress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Department of Education determines that the existing practices are insufficient in safeguarding the well-being of students from heat exposure in the course of conducting the study, the Department is requested to develop a plan that includes guidelines for managing heat exposure to protect students' health during outdoor activities; provided that the guidelines:

- (1) Apply to all department and charter schools in the State;
- (2) Be utilized for sports practices, conditioning workouts, recess, marching band practice, junior reserve officers' training corps activities, and other outdoor activities;
- (3) Include protocols for ensuring adequate hydration during outdoor activities;
- (4) Include training for school staff on recognizing and responding to symptoms of exertional heat illness;
- (5) Include measures to safeguard students with medical conditions or medications that impair thermoregulation; and
- (6) Include recommendations for acclimatizing or re-acclimatizing students returning to outdoor activities after a period of absence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is requested to assess the ongoing cost of guideline implementation and continued maintenance and include the assessment in the Department's study; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
2 requested to submit the study, including any findings,  
3 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no  
4 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
5 Session of 2026; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should a plan be developed by  
8 the Department of Education, the Department is requested to  
9 complete and submit the plan to the Legislature no later than  
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
11 2027; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Superintendent of  
15 Education, Director of Health, and Chairperson of the State  
16 Public Charter School Commission.

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19 OFFERED BY:



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