

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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 Senate of the Thirty-third
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
37 House of Representatives 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



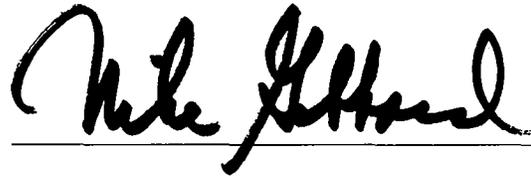
1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
2 requested to submit the study, including any findings,
3 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no
4 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
5 Session of 2026; and

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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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OFFERED BY:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Atwood", is written over a horizontal line.

