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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT HEAT EXPOSURE.

**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, combined  
4 with Hawaii's high average annual relative humidity, pose  
5 significant 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 to  
16 exceed physical limits. Additionally, children often lack  
17 control over the timing and conditions of outdoor activities,



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

3 The legislature additionally finds that wet-bulb globe  
4 temperature measurements are widely recognized as the gold  
5 standard for assessing heat stress, as used by the United States  
6 military, Occupational Safety and Health Administration,  
7 National Collegiate Athletic Association, and professional  
8 sports organizations.

9 The legislature further finds that in hot, high-risk areas  
10 of West Oahu, students have already experienced severe heat-  
11 related illness during outdoor school activities, including an  
12 incident requiring emergency medical care. In response to the  
13 urgency of this risk, a public middle school and high school in  
14 West Oahu are piloting the use of wet-bulb globe temperature  
15 thermometers during physical education and other outdoor  
16 activities to guide safety decisions and collect localized data.  
17 Despite these known risks and the expectation of increasing  
18 temperatures, Hawaii currently lacks statewide requirements for  
19 managing extreme heat during outdoor school activities, leaving  
20 students at risk of preventable heat-related illnesses.



1        The legislature notes that the Korey Stringer Institute,  
2        the nation's premier academic research institution on exertional  
3        heat illness and athlete safety, has recommended that Hawaii  
4        adopt comprehensive heat safety policies to protect student  
5        athletes.

6        Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

7                (1)      Require the board of education to adopt a heat  
8                acclimatization and practice policy, based on the  
9                Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association's Hawaii High  
10              School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and  
11              Practice Policy of 2017, for students in grades  
12              kindergarten to twelve in department of education  
13              schools and public charter schools statewide; and  
14                (2)      Appropriate funds for training and implementation of  
15                the policy and for the purchase of wet-bulb globe  
16                temperature thermometers for public schools.

17              SECTION 2.   Heat acclimatization and practice policy;  
18        student activities.   (a)   The board of education shall adopt a  
19        heat acclimatization and practice policy to be applicable at all  
20        department of education schools and charter schools in the State  
21        for grades kindergarten to twelve.



6 (1) Thresholds for modifying, postponing, or canceling  
7 activities based on wet-bulb glove temperature  
8 measurements;

9 (2) The minimum time before activities at which a wet-bulb  
10 globe temperature measurement must be taken and the  
11 frequency of additional measurements once activities  
12 have begun;

13 (3) A requirement that wet-bulb globe temperature  
14 measurements occur onsite at the school campus or  
15 location where the activity shall take place;

16 (4) Protocols for ensuring adequate hydration during  
17 activities:

18 (5) Training for school staff on recognizing and  
19 responding to symptoms of contagious heat illness

20 (6) Measures to safeguard students with medical condi  
21 or medications that impair thermoregulation; and



7 (1) Is utilized for conducting, scheduling, and the  
8 implementing the modification or cancelation of sports  
9 conditioning practices, games, and recess; and

10 (2) Uses, as the standard for measuring heat stress, wet-  
11 bulb globe temperature standards that are consistent  
12 with the wet-bulb globe temperature component of the  
13 policy.

14 (d) As the Hawaii Athletics Trainers Association, or a  
15 successor organization, may issue updates to the Hawaii Athletic  
16 Trainers Association's Hawaii High School Athletic Association  
17 Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy of 2017 from time to  
18 time, the board of education shall update to its policy with any  
19 applicable updates as soon as practicable. Nothing in this  
20 section shall prohibit the department of education or a charter  
21 school from implementing its own procedures to address



1 applicable updates to the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association's  
2 Hawaii High School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and  
3 Practice Policy of 2017, as amended, until such time the board  
4 of education amends its policy.

5 (e) The board of education may adopt rules pursuant to  
6 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to implement this section.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$15,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to the  
10 department of education for training and implementation of the  
11 policy adopted by the board of education pursuant to section 2  
12 of this Act.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 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 \$15,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to the  
18 public charter school commission for the training and  
19 implementation of the policy adopted by the board of education  
20 pursuant to section 2 of this Act.



1        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public  
2 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

3        SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$143,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to provide  
6 wet-bulb globe temperature thermometers to all department of  
7 education schools statewide; provided that the devices shall  
8 meet or exceed the performance specifications model identified  
9 by the Korey Stringer Institute as the gold standard for  
10 scholastic heat safety, or any successor recommendation, or an  
11 equivalent device as determined by the department of education.

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

14       SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$22,000 so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to provide  
17 wet-bulb globe temperature thermometers to all public charter  
18 schools statewide; provided that the devices shall meet or  
19 exceed the performance specifications model identified by the  
20 Korey Stringer Institute as the gold standard for scholastic  
21 heat safety, or any successor recommendation, or an equivalent



1 device as determined by the state public charter school  
2 commission.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public  
4 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Lia Meets*

JAN 22 2026



# H.B. NO. 1803

**Report Title:**

BOE; DOE; Charter Schools; Heat Exposure; Physical Activities; Policy; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Board of Education to adopt a heat acclimatization and practice policy based on the Hawaii Athletic Trainers Association's Hawaii High School Athletic Association Heat Acclimatization and Practice Policy of 2017 for students in grades kindergarten to twelve in Department of Education schools and public charter schools statewide for certain physical activities. Appropriates funds.

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

