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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. The purpose of this Act is to build a  
2 foundation of respect and love for the heritage of the State and  
3 the United States of America by facilitating the recitation of  
4 the Pledge of Allegiance and Hawaii Ponoi in public elementary  
5 schools.

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

9        **"S302A- Pledge of allegiance; Hawaii ponoi.** (a) Each  
10      public school with students in grade kindergarten, grade six, or  
11      any intervening grade shall authorize the school's faculty and  
12      staff to provide, on a daily basis, time and space for students  
13      to recite the pledge of allegiance and Hawaii ponoi; provided  
14      that:

15        (1) No public school student shall be compelled, against  
16        the student's objections or the objections of the  
17        student's parent or guardian, to recite the pledge of



1 allegiance or Hawaii ponoi or stand during the  
2 recitation of the pledge of allegiance or Hawaii ponoi  
3 in any classroom or activity of the public school;  
4 (2) No public school teacher or staff member shall  
5 admonish, discipline, or harass a student based on the  
6 student's participation or non-participation in a  
7 recitation of the pledge of allegiance or Hawaii ponoi  
8 in any classroom or activity of the public school; and  
9 (3) No public school teacher or staff member shall be  
10 admonished, disciplined, or harassed for either  
11 deciding or declining to lead students in a recitation  
12 of the pledge of allegiance or Hawaii ponoi in any  
13 classroom or activity of the public school.  
14 (b) In addition to the pledge of allegiance and Hawaii  
15 ponoi, schools may encourage the recitation of other songs or  
16 poems that relate to national or state history, culture, and  
17 traditions and evoke pride in the nation and state.  
18 (c) A copy of this section shall be posted in a  
19 conspicuous location at each public school that is subject to  
20 this section.



1        (d) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
2 carry out the purposes of this section."

3        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Dan \_\_\_\_\_

JAN 26 2026



# H.B. NO. 2178

**Report Title:**

Education; Public Schools; Elementary Students; Recitation

**Description:**

Requires public schools with elementary students to allow faculty and staff to provide time and space each day for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Hawaii Pono'i.

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

