
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

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

"§302A- Emergency preparedness; safety and security.

(a) To ensure the safety of students, teachers, and school staff:

(1) All classroom doors shall be retrofitted with an interior lock by January 1, 2027;

(2) All classrooms and outside gathering spaces shall be connected to a public address system that is independent of the school's phone system by January 1, 2027;

(3) All schools shall be equipped with an emergency access route which features more than one entrance and exit by January 1, 2027; and



1 (4) All classrooms and outside gathering spaces shall
2 feature functioning fire alarms with both an auditory
3 and visual component.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§302A- Emergency management plan; emergency
8 preparedness. (a) The department shall establish an emergency
9 management plan for all schools to prepare for and respond to an
10 emergency or disaster, as defined in section 127A-2. Emergency
11 management plans shall be updated on a yearly basis and shall
12 include:

13 (1) Mandatory emergency preparedness training for all
14 teachers, students, and school staff that includes:

15 (A) Annual training for all teachers and staff on
16 violence prevention, awareness, reporting, and
17 emergency response conducted in conjunction with
18 law enforcement and aligned with best practices;

19 (B) Annual, age-appropriate training for all students
20 on violence prevention, awareness, reporting, and



1 emergency response that is aligned with

2 established best practices;

3 (C) Teacher, staff, and student training on the

4 protocol for initiating an emergency response;

5 (D) Teacher, staff, and student training on a

6 standardized emergency response protocol;

7 (E) Basic safety training such as first aid and

8 cardiopulmonary resuscitation for all teachers

9 and security personnel; and

10 (F) Parent and guardian access to relevant

11 information regarding emergency response plans;

12 and

13 (2) At least four emergency practice drills per year at

14 each school, some of which shall occur during

15 inopportune times of the school day such as recess or

16 during a school assembly, to address the following

17 emergency situations:

18 (A) Lock down;

19 (B) Fire;

20 (C) Severe weather; and

21 (D) Active shooter.



1 (b) Each school shall regularly test their public address
2 system and fire alarms, no less than once every three months."

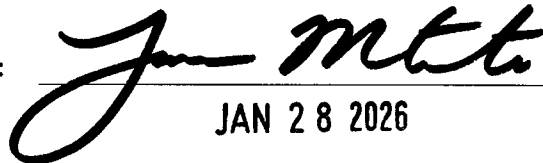
3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
6 implementation of the emergency preparedness procedures and
7 equipment outlined above.

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

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

12
INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2556

Report Title:

Education; School Safety; Emergency Preparedness; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of education to equip all classroom doors with interior locks, maintain a public address system, feature an emergency access route, and maintain fire alarms. Mandates the establishment of a school emergency management plan. Requires schools to conduct regular testing and emergency preparedness drills. Appropriates funds.

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