
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that cellphone use in
2 schools can be detrimental to student achievement and wellbeing.
3 Research has shown that allowing cellphones in the classroom
4 impacts student focus and engagement, leading to decreased
5 academic performance on tests and adversely impacting students'
6 long-term learning retention. Excessive cellphone use can also
7 distract students from in-person socialization, which is
8 critical for students' physical and mental wellbeing.

9 The legislature further finds that there is a growing
10 number of states that are banning or restricting cellphone use
11 in schools. At least nineteen states have passed laws or
12 enacted policies that ban or restrict students' use of
13 cellphones in schools statewide or have recommended that local
14 districts enact bans or restrictive policies. In Hawaii,
15 efforts to ban cellphones in schools have had a positive impact
16 on students, with teachers reporting fewer distractions in class
17 and more social interactions among students.



1 The legislature declares that banning the use of cell
2 phones and related devices, such as smart watches, earbuds,
3 AirPods, Bluetooth connected headphones, and smart glasses, by
4 students during school hours is a matter of statewide concern.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the board of
6 education to adopt a policy that, beginning in the 2027-2028
7 school year, bans the use of cell phones and related devices,
8 such as smart watches, earbuds, AirPods, Bluetooth connected
9 headphones, and smart glasses, by students during school hours,
10 except for instructional purposes.

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

14 "§302A- Phone-and-related devices-free, bell-to-bell
15 policy. The board shall establish a phone-and-related devices-
16 free, bell-to-bell policy for public schools to be implemented
17 beginning with the 2027-2028 school year; provided that phones
18 and related devices may be used for instructional purposes;
19 provided further that the policy may be implemented in phases
20 for each school level."

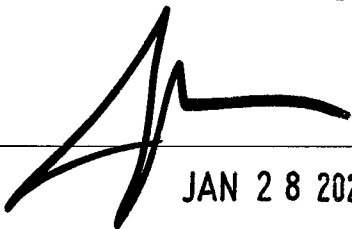
21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 28 2026

H.B. NO. 2563

Report Title:

Department of Education; Phones; Related Devices; Ban

Description:

Requires the Board of Education to adopt a policy that bans the use of phones and related devices by students during school hours, except for instructional purposes, to begin in the 2027-2028 school year.

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

