

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

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

4 "~~§302A-~~ **Attendance; mental or behavioral health;**
5 **excused absence.** (a) The department shall identify as an
6 excused absence any absence due to the student's mental or
7 behavioral health; provided that a student may not take more
8 than excused absences due to mental or behavioral health
9 per academic year.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section, "excused absence"
11 means an absence identified by the department as exempt from
12 penalties relating to the failure of a student to meet the
13 requirements for regular attendance at school."

14 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1136, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "~~[+]§302A-1136[+]~~ **Enforcement.** (a) The department shall
17 be charged with the enforcement of sections 302A-1132 to



1 302A-1135. Nothing in this section shall relieve any chief of
2 police or police officer of the chief's or officer's
3 responsibility for the enforcement of these sections, but their
4 enforcement shall be subject to the plans and policies of the
5 department.

6 (b) An absence by a student due to the student's mental or
7 behavioral health shall be exempt from this section."

8 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
9 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
10 begun before its effective date.

11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
14

INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2222

Report Title:

DOE; Education; Attendance; Mental Health; Behavioral Health;
Excused Absence

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to identify as an excused absence any absence due to the student's mental or behavioral health. Limits the number of excused absences due to mental or behavioral health that a student may take per academic year. Exempts an absence due to the student's mental or behavioral health from the enforcement of penalties relating to compulsory school attendance.

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

