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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.



1 (b) The policy required by subsection (a) shall be based,  
2 to the extent practicable, on the Hawaii Athletic Trainers  
3 Association's Hawaii High School Athletic Association Heat  
4 Acclimatization and Practice Policy of 2017; provided that at a  
5 minimum, the board of education policy shall include:

6 (1) Thresholds for modifying, postponing, or canceling  
7 activities based on wet-bulb globe 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 exertional heat illness;

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



1 (7) Requirements for acclimatizing or reacclimatizing  
2 students to return to activities after a period of  
3 absence.

4 (c) In implementing the policy required by subsection (a),  
5 the department of education and each charter school shall ensure  
6 that the policy:

7 (1) Is utilized for conducting, scheduling, and  
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 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 \$ or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
10 the department of education for training and implementation of  
11 the policy adopted by the board of education pursuant to section  
12 2 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 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 \$           or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
6 provide wet-bulb globe temperature thermometers to all  
7 department of education schools statewide; provided that the  
8 devices shall meet or exceed the performance specifications  
9 model identified by the Korey Stringer Institute as the gold  
10 standard for scholastic heat safety, or any successor  
11 recommendation, or an equivalent device as determined by the  
12 department of education.

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

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



1 heat safety, or any successor recommendation, or an equivalent  
2 device as determined by the state public charter school  
3 commission.

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

6 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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