
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL WORKERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the safety and well-
2 being of Hawaii's educational workers are essential to the
3 effective operation of the State's public schools. In recent
4 years, school administrators, teachers, counselors, and other
5 educational staff have experienced severe harassment,
6 intimidation, and disruptive conduct by certain individuals.
7 These types of actions have included persistent threats, hostile
8 communications, and behavior that creates fear, disrupts
9 workflow, and impedes the ability of schools to carry out
10 legally required duties.

11 The legislature notes that this Act is not intended to
12 restrict good-faith communication, parental advocacy, or
13 participation in school matters. Rather, it addresses extreme
14 conduct that intentionally harasses educational workers or
15 obstructs the functions of a school, school administration
16 office, or school board.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



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(1) Include the disruption or interference with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board in the offense of harassment; and

(2) Elevate the penalty for harassment to a misdemeanor when the recipient is an educational worker.

SECTION 2. Section 711-1106, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§711-1106 Harassment. (1) A person commits the offense of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm any other person, that person:

(a) Strikes, shoves, kicks, or otherwise touches another person in an offensive manner or subjects the other person to offensive physical contact;

(b) Insults, taunts, or challenges another person in a manner likely to provoke an immediate violent response or that would cause the other person to reasonably believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury to the recipient or another or damage to the property of the recipient or another;



1 (c) Repeatedly makes telephone calls, facsimile
2 transmissions, or any form of electronic communication
3 as defined in section 711-1111(2), including
4 electronic mail transmissions, without purpose of
5 legitimate communication;

6 (d) Repeatedly makes a communication anonymously or at an
7 extremely inconvenient hour;

8 (e) Repeatedly makes communications, after being advised
9 by the person to whom the communication is directed
10 that further communication is unwelcome; ~~[or]~~

11 (f) Makes a communication using offensively coarse
12 language that would cause the recipient to reasonably
13 believe that the actor intends to cause bodily injury
14 to the recipient or another or damage to the property
15 of the recipient or another~~[-]~~; or

16 (g) Disrupts or interferes with the administration or
17 functions of any school, school administration office,
18 or school board.

19 (2) Harassment is a petty misdemeanor~~[-]~~ unless the
20 recipient is an educational worker, in which case it is a
21 misdemeanor.



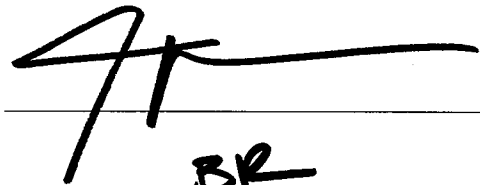
(3) For the purposes of this section, "educational worker"
means any administrator, specialist, counselor, teacher, or
employee of the department of education or an employee of a
charter school; a person who is a volunteer as defined in
section 90-1, in a school program, activity, or function that is
established, sanctioned, or approved by the department of
education; or a person hired by the department of education on a
contractual basis and engaged in carrying out department of
education function."

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

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

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

INTRODUCED BY:


BR
JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 1895

Report Title:

Penal Code; Harassment; Educational Worker

Description:

Includes the disruption or interference with the administration or functions of any school, school administration office, or school board in the offense of harassment. Elevates the penalty for harassment to a misdemeanor when the recipient is an educational worker.

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