

JAN 21 2026

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, according to
2 education studies of public school performance across the United
3 States, Hawaii student performance ranks in the middle or close
4 to the bottom in comparison to other states. The State also
5 requires fewer instructional hours at public schools.

6 The legislature also finds that low student performance is
7 correlated with less time in the classroom. For example,
8 Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, and Rhode Island are the states
9 with the fewest public school instructional hours while also
10 having low student performance. States with higher performing
11 public schools have higher instructional hours compared to
12 Hawaii.

13 The legislature further finds that research shows expanding
14 school instructional time can increase student achievement.
15 Studies also show that students with more school days between
16 assessments made larger achievement gains than peers with fewer



1 days, reinforcing the link between instructional time and
2 achievement.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase
4 required public school instructional hours beginning with the
5 2027-2028 school year.

6 SECTION 2. Section 302A-251, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 **"§302A-251 School year; student hours. (a)**

9 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, beginning with
10 the 2011-2013 school years, all public schools, excluding
11 charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall implement
12 a school year of one hundred eighty days, excluding professional
13 development days and other non-instructional days negotiated
14 pursuant to chapter 89.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary:

16 (1) For the 2011-2012 school year, fifty per cent of all
17 public elementary schools in the State, excluding
18 charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall
19 implement a school year that includes nine hundred
20 fifteen student hours; and



1 (2) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, all public
2 elementary schools in the State, excluding charter
3 schools and multi-track public schools, shall
4 implement a school year that includes nine hundred
5 fifteen student hours.

6 (c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, for the
7 2015-2016 school year, all public secondary schools, excluding
8 charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall implement
9 a school year that includes nine hundred ninety student hours.

10 (d) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
11 beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, all public schools,
12 excluding charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall
13 implement a school year of one hundred eighty days, excluding
14 professional development days and other non-instructional days
15 negotiated pursuant to chapter 89, that shall include one
16 thousand eighty student hours for both elementary and secondary
17 school grades.

18 (e) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
19 beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, all public schools,
20 excluding charter schools and multi-track public schools, shall
21 implement a school year of one hundred eighty days, excluding



1 professional development days and other non-instructional days
2 negotiated pursuant to chapter 89, that shall include one
3 thousand two hundred student hours for both elementary and
4 secondary school grades.

5 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The board, in its discretion, may grant a waiver
6 to any individual school subject to the student hours or one
7 hundred eighty day school year requirements in this section.
8 The board shall adopt policies and procedures to grant a waiver
9 under this subsection.

10 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) For purposes of this section, "student hours"
11 shall be inclusive of the full school day in alignment with the
12 State's general learner outcomes.

13 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The department of education, with the board of
14 education and office of the governor, and in consultation with
15 representatives of the affected collective bargaining units,
16 shall submit to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior
17 to the convening of the regular sessions of 2013, 2014, 2015,
18 and 2016, a report on its progress and efforts to meet the
19 requirements of subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d)."

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2181

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

2

INTRODUCED BY: *Atty Gen*



S.B. NO. 2181

Report Title:

Education; Instructional Hours; Student Performance; Student Improvement; Public Schools

Description:

Increases required public school instructional hours beginning in the 2027-2028 school year.

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