
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR
A TIERED, COORDINATED, AND STANDARDIZED BELL SCHEDULE
FRAMEWORK FOR DEPARTMENT SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, the State has established minimum instructional
2 hour requirements to ensure that all public school students
3 receive adequate and equitable educations; and
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5 WHEREAS, currently, the bell schedule for each school is
6 determined at the school level via a collaborative process that
7 affords the school administration flexibility to tailor the
8 allocation of time according to individual academic goals and
9 operational nuances; and
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11 WHEREAS, as a result, however, school start and end times
12 vary widely across public schools and complex areas, creating
13 challenges for families with children at multiple grade levels,
14 complicating transportation planning, and limiting opportunities
15 for coordination with community programs, athletics, and
16 extracurricular activities; and
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18 WHEREAS, the absence of standardization across bell
19 schedules also produces operational inefficiencies for the
20 Department of Education, particularly with respect to school bus
21 routing, staffing, professional development planning, and shared
22 services across schools or complex areas; and
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24 WHEREAS, ongoing school bus service disruptions, including
25 discontinued, consolidated, and unfulfilled routes, have created
26 significant challenges for students and families across the
27 State; and
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29 WHEREAS, establishing a coordinated standardized bell
30 schedule framework by school level, while preserving local



1 flexibility within instructional hour requirements, would
2 promote greater predictability, equity, and efficiency across
3 the public education system; and
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5 WHEREAS, improved coordination of school bell schedules
6 represents a practical strategy to maximize limited
7 transportation resources by enabling more efficient routing and
8 increasing the number of students that can be served by existing
9 bus capacity; and
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11 WHEREAS, a consistent scheduling structure may also support
12 student well-being by aligning instructional hours with age-
13 appropriate learning needs and facilitating collaboration among
14 educators across schools and complex areas; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Education is requested to develop a proposal for a tiered,
20 coordinated, and standardized bell schedule framework for
21 department schools; provided that the framework is requested to
22 be developed in consultation with affected stakeholders,
23 including collective bargaining representatives, and comply with
24 applicable collective bargaining agreements, and may consider
25 adoption at the complex area or regional level rather than
26 requiring site-based consensus at each individual school; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed tiered,
29 coordinated, and standardized bell schedule framework is
30 requested to:
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- 32 (1) Comply with all state and federal instructional hours
33 requirements;
 - 34 (2) Be organized by school level, including:
 - 35 (A) Elementary schools;
 - 36 (B) Middle or intermediate schools; and
 - 37 (C) High schools; and
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1 (3) Consider coordination of noninstructional waiver days
2 across schools or complex areas; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
5 requested to consult with school administrators, teachers,
6 collective bargaining representatives, parents, students, and
7 transportation providers in the development of the proposed
8 framework; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
11 requested to submit its proposal to the Legislature for further
12 consideration and discussion no later than thirty days prior to
13 the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
17 Board of Education and Superintendent of Education.

