

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A 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, school start and end times, however, vary widely  
6 across public schools and complex areas, creating challenges for  
7 families with children at multiple grade levels, complicating  
8 transportation planning, and limiting opportunities for  
9 coordination with community programs, athletics, and  
10 extracurricular activities; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the absence of standardized bell schedules also  
13 produces operational inefficiencies for the Department of  
14 Education, particularly with respect to school bus routing,  
15 staffing, professional development planning, and shared services  
16 across schools or complex areas; and  
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18           WHEREAS, establishing a standardized bell schedule  
19 framework by school level while preserving local flexibility  
20 within instructional hour requirements would promote greater  
21 predictability, equity, and efficiency across the public  
22 education system; and  
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24           WHEREAS, a consistent scheduling structure may also support  
25 student well-being by aligning instructional hours with age-  
26 appropriate learning needs and facilitating collaboration among  
27 educators across schools and complex areas; now, therefore,  
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29           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
31 that the Department of Education is requested to develop a  
32 standardized bell schedule framework for department schools; and  
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34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the standardized bell schedule  
35 framework is requested to:  
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- 1 (1) Comply with all state and federal instructional hours
- 2 requirements; and
- 3
- 4 (2) Be organized by school level, including:
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- 6 (A) Elementary schools;
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- 8 (B) Middle or intermediate schools; and
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- 10 (C) High schools; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is  
13 requested to consult with school administrators, teachers,  
14 collective bargaining representatives, parents, students, and  
15 transportation providers in the development of the standardized  
16 bell schedule framework; and

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and  
20 Chairperson of the Board of Education.

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OFFERED BY:

*Amor Mercado*

