
SENATE 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, establishing a coordinated standardized bell
25 schedule framework by school level, while preserving local
26 flexibility within instructional hour requirements, would
27 promote greater predictability, equity, and efficiency across
28 the public education system; and
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30 WHEREAS, a consistent scheduling structure may also support
31 student well-being by aligning instructional hours with age-
32 appropriate learning needs and facilitating collaboration among
33 educators across schools and complex areas; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
4 that the Department of Education is requested to develop a
5 proposal for a tiered, coordinated, and standardized bell
6 schedule framework for department schools; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed tiered,
9 coordinated, and standardized bell schedule framework is
10 requested to:

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12 (1) Comply with all state and federal instructional hours
13 requirements;
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15 (2) Be organized by school level, including:
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17 (A) Elementary schools;
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19 (B) Middle or intermediate schools; and
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21 (C) High schools; and
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23 (3) Consider coordination of noninstructional waiver days
24 across schools or complex areas; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
27 requested to consult with school administrators, teachers,
28 collective bargaining representatives, parents, students, and
29 transportation providers in the development of the proposed
30 framework; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
33 requested to submit its proposal to the Legislature for further
34 consideration and discussion no later than thirty days prior to
35 the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education and
Chairperson of the Board of Education.
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