

JAN 22 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WHOLE CHILD EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that whole child
2 education promotes creative thinking and improves academic
3 achievement across subject areas. A 2014 Harvard Graduate
4 School of Education study indicated that education in music and
5 drama contributes to an increase in verbal achievement and
6 spatial reasoning. In 2013, researchers in the Department of
7 Education Reform at the University of Arkansas similarly found
8 that instruction in visual arts led to gains in critical
9 thinking skills.

10 The legislature further finds that place-based curricula
11 immerses students in the culture, history, and heritage of local
12 communities, and encourages students to apply cultural content
13 to local community experiences. Hawaii has a unique history as
14 a former sovereign nation and several communities face problems
15 dealing with the legacy of annexation, including a higher risk
16 of poverty and lower levels of academic achievement for native



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1 Hawaiians. Place-based education is essential to provide
2 students with the skills necessary to solve community problems.

3 The purpose of this Act is to promote creative thinking,
4 self-directed learning, and cultural understanding by requiring
5 public school students in all grade levels to receive whole
6 child education.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Whole child education. (a) Beginning with the
11 2017-2018 school year, all public elementary schools shall
12 allocate per cent of all student hours to whole child
13 education and all public middle and intermediate schools shall
14 allocate per cent of all student hours to whole child
15 education.

16 (b) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Student hours" has the same meaning or value as the
18 student hours as calculated in section 302A-251.

19 "Whole child education" means instruction in visual arts,
20 music, theatre, dance, Hawaiian and Polynesian studies, Hawaiian



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1 language, native Hawaiian culture, native Hawaiian traditional
2 and customary practices, and physical education."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Whole Child Education; Public Education

Description:

Requires all public schools to allocate a percentage of student hours to instruction in visual arts, music, theatre, dance, Hawaiian and Polynesian studies, Hawaiian language, native Hawaiian culture, native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, and physical education.

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