
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT INFORMED CONSENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. For decades, students have participated in the
2 dissection and vivisection of animals as part of traditional
3 educational curricula. The legislature finds that advancements
4 in computer software now make it possible for schools to respect
5 each student's ethical, moral or religious position regarding
6 the humane treatment of animals without sacrificing learning
7 objectives. The purpose of this Act is to require public
8 schools to make educational alternatives to the dissection and
9 vivisection of animals available to all students.

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

13 "§302A- Student's informed consent to decline
14 participation in animal dissection and vivisection. (a) A
15 student enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve in any
16 public school in the State may decline to participate in or
17 observe, wholly or in part, any of the following activities
18 involving animals as part of a course of study: dissection,



1 vivisection, incubation, infliction of harm, capture, or
2 destruction of an animal. A student may also decline to
3 participate in or observe any part of surgery, other invasive
4 procedures or experiments performed on an animal, or any
5 termination of life.

6 (b) A student who exercises the student's right to decline
7 participation in any of the activities involving animals listed
8 in subsection (a) shall be given a suitable alternative
9 education project designed to provide the student with factual
10 knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of
11 study.

12 (c) If a test requires the use of dissection or dissected
13 specimens, students shall be offered an alternative test that
14 does not use such specimens.

15 (d) A student shall not be penalized or discriminated
16 against, with regard to grade for the class, removal from the
17 class, or otherwise, for refusing to participate in or observe
18 any activities set forth in subsection (a).

19 (e) The board shall adopt necessary rules to ensure the
20 proper administration and compliance with this section,
21 including, but not limited to notifying all schools and



1 requiring each school to notify its students and their parents,
2 in writing, at a time to be specified by the board, that all
3 students have the right to refuse participation or observation
4 of any activities involving animals listed in subsection (a)."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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Report Title:

Student Informed Consent to Animal Dissection and Vivisection;
Public Schools

Description:

Allows public school students in grades K through 12 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection, and other procedures harmful to animals. Requires schools to make alternative educational projects available, and the board of education to develop rules and give notice to all schools. (SD1)

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