
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMAL DISSECTION IN SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that moral, ethical, or
2 religious principles regarding the humane treatment of animals
3 make some students unwilling to participate in dissecting or
4 harming animals. Students who are forced to participate in such
5 actions may abandon the study of science altogether if not
6 provided an alternative.

7 The purpose of this Act is to respect student beliefs,
8 increase student learning, and lower educational costs by:

9 (1) Allowing students to decline to participate in animal
10 dissections; and

11 (2) Require schools to make alternatives available to
12 students who have declined to participate in an animal
13 dissection.

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



1 "§302A- Dissection of animals; opportunity to decline.

2 (a) Any student may decline to participate in the dissection of

3 any animal, including participating in or observing:

4 (1) The dissection, vivisection, incubation, infliction of

5 harm, or capture of any animal;

6 (2) Surgery, an invasive procedure, or the experimentation

7 on an animal; or

8 (3) The termination of any animal's life,

9 by informing the appropriate teacher and providing satisfactory

10 proof that the student's parent or guardian has consented to the

11 student declining to participate in the dissection of the

12 animal.

13 (b) Any student who declines to participate in the

14 dissection of an animal shall be provided with a suitable

15 alternative education project designed to provide the student

16 with the equivalent factual knowledge, information, or

17 experience. Any alternative education project shall not require

18 more time or effort than the dissection. A comparable grading

19 method shall assess the alternative project.

20 (c) If a test or examination requires the dissection of an

21 animal or the use of a dissected animal, any student who has



1 declined to participate in the dissection of an animal shall be
2 provided with an alternative test or examination that does not
3 use an animal specimen.

4 (d) No student shall be penalized or discriminated against
5 for declining to participate in the dissection of any animal;
6 provided that the student fulfills the requirements of the
7 assigned alternative education project or test or examination.

8 (e) Each school shall notify its students and their
9 parents in writing of the option to decline to participate in
10 the dissection of any animal:

11 (1) At the beginning of each semester; and

12 (2) Not less than three weeks prior to any scheduled
13 dissection;

14 provided that any student may decline to participate in the
15 dissection of an animal on the day of the dissection by
16 providing proper parental or guardian consent as required by
17 subsection (a).

18 (f) As used in this section:

19 "Alternative education project" means the use of video
20 equipment, models, films, books, photos, pictures, computers,
21 live observation in the wild or in zoos, or any other tools



1 which provide an alternative method to the use of live or once
2 live animals for obtaining and testing knowledge, information,
3 or experience.

4 "Animal" means any living organism, including frogs, cats,
5 fetal pigs, and earthworms, including an animal's cadaver or
6 severed parts thereof."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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H.B. NO. 1003

Report Title:

Dissection; Animals; Students; Department of Education

Description:

Authorizes DOE students to decline to dissect animals. Requires schools to provide an alternative to students who have declined.

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