
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Research by the National Education Association
2 has found that reducing class size provides long-term benefits
3 for students and for society as a whole. Reduced class sizes in
4 lower-income school districts help to increase student
5 achievement and students' test scores, alleviate strain on
6 teachers, and raise college-acceptance rates. Furthermore,
7 research by the Center for Educational Equity discovered that
8 smaller class sizes may attract high-quality teachers, citing
9 successes in Tennessee and Wisconsin schools, and smaller class
10 sizes were then adopted by California and Florida. In
11 Rochester, New York, a reduction in class sizes was implemented
12 over a four-year period to manage the effects on personnel and
13 on the budget.

14 The legislature finds that reduced class sizes will also
15 benefit Hawaii's public-school students and teachers. The
16 purpose of this Act is to require the department of education to
17 implement a reduction in class sizes over four years.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Reduction in class sizes. (a) Notwithstanding
5 any collective bargaining agreement to the contrary, beginning
6 with the 2020-2021 school year and ending with the 2023-2024
7 school year, the department shall implement a reduction in class
8 sizes in all department schools.

9 (b) Over the period specified in subsection (a):

10 (1) Class sizes in elementary schools shall be reduced to
11 no more than twenty students per class; and

12 (2) Class sizes in middle or intermediate schools and in
13 high schools shall be reduced to no more than twenty-
14 five students per class.

15 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to
16 charter schools under chapter 302D; special education programs;
17 or elective classes, such as visual arts, music, drama, and
18 dance."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



H.B. NO. 1144

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

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H.B. NO. 1144

Report Title:

Public Schools; Reduction in Class Sizes

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to reduce class sizes over a period of four years.

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