

JAN 23 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
REQUIREMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease
2 Control and Prevention (CDC), schools and communities should do
3 more to promote physical activities for young people. The CDC
4 makes this recommendation because of the genetic and behavioral
5 risk factors that exist which make children susceptible to
6 higher rates of sickness and mortality as they get older. One
7 such risk factor is the prevalence of obesity, which is at an
8 all-time high among children and adolescents. Childhood obesity
9 can lead to the development of life-long heart disease and
10 diabetes, among other serious ailments.

11 Many health advocates believe that adults acquire patterns
12 of health-related behaviors during childhood. Thus, children
13 who are encouraged to engage in regular physical activity in
14 their youth are more likely to continue a pattern of physical
15 activity in adulthood. Establishing a regular pattern of
16 physical activity contributes to the achievement of better long-
17 term physical health overall. Physical activity has been found



1 to have beneficial effects on a child's mental health, and
2 regular exercise produces positive, lasting effects over the
3 course of a lifetime.

4 A recent study released by the California Department of
5 Education revealed a direct relationship between the academic
6 achievement and physical fitness of California's public school
7 students. According to the study:

8 (1) Higher achievement was associated with higher levels
9 of fitness for each grade level measured (fifth,
10 seventh, and ninth);

11 (2) The relationship between academic achievement and
12 fitness was greater in mathematics than in reading,
13 particularly at higher fitness levels;

14 (3) Students who met minimum fitness levels in three or
15 more physical fitness areas showed the greatest gains
16 in academic achievement at all three grade levels
17 measured; and

18 (4) Females demonstrated higher achievement than males,
19 particularly at higher fitness levels.

20 In response to this study, the California Superintendent of
21 Public Instruction Delaine Eastin issued a statement: "This
22 statewide study provides compelling evidence that the physical

1 well-being of students has a direct impact on their ability to
2 achieve academically. We now have the proof we've been looking
3 for--students achieve best when they are physically fit."

4 The purpose of this Act is to reduce the prevalence of
5 childhood obesity and to promote greater physical health among
6 Hawaii's children by requiring all elementary and middle schools
7 to include in their curricula various physical activities for at
8 least two hundred minutes every ten school days. This Act also
9 makes an appropriation to support the additional resources that
10 schools may require to carry out the purposes of this Act.

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

14 "§302A- Physical activity requirements; elementary and
15 middle schools. (a) All elementary and middle schools shall
16 ensure that students engage in physical activity for not less
17 than two hundred minutes every ten school days, exclusive of
18 recesses and lunch periods. This requirement may be fulfilled
19 by activity that occurs outside the physical education
20 curriculum.

21 (b) The department may grant temporary exemption to a
22 student from courses in physical education if the student is:



- 1 (1) Disabled, ill, or injured, and a modified program to
- 2 meet the needs of the student cannot be provided;
- 3 (2) Playing on a school athletic team; provided the
- 4 exemption shall last only for the period of the
- 5 particular sport's season; or
- 6 (3) Enrolled for one-half or less of the work normally
- 7 required of full-time students."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general

10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so

11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to

12 carry out the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 5. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the

14 department of education.

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

16 and shall apply to schools beginning January 1, 2007.

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SB2167

Report Title:

Physical Activities; Curriculum; Elementary and Middle Schools

Description:

Requires all elementary and middle schools to include in their curriculum at least 200 minutes of physical activities every 10 school days. Makes an appropriation.

