

JAN 19 2007

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUN PROTECTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that inadequate  
2 protection against the sun's harmful effects can have deadly  
3 consequences. One in five Americans will develop skin cancer  
4 during his or her lifetime and fifty-eight per cent of blindness  
5 worldwide is caused by cataracts, which can be caused by  
6 excessive sun exposure. More than one million Americans will be  
7 diagnosed with skin cancer this year. That is more than all  
8 other types of cancer combined. Over ten thousand Americans  
9 (more than one per hour) will die from the disease.

10           The three major types of skin cancer are the highly curable  
11 basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas and the more serious,  
12 malignant melanoma. Melanoma, the deadliest type of skin  
13 cancer, is also the most rapidly increasing form of cancer in  
14 the United States, causing seventy-five per cent of all skin  
15 cancer deaths. Skin cancer is especially prevalent in Hawaii,  
16 with Kauai leading the nation in per capita incidence of basal  
17 cell carcinoma.



1           The legislature also finds that sun protection during  
2 childhood and adolescence is particularly important because  
3 research shows a history of five or more severe sunburns during  
4 adolescence more than doubles a child's risk of developing  
5 melanoma. Since Hawaii is the only state located in the sun-  
6 drenched tropics and most of Hawaii's public schools do not have  
7 a comprehensive sun protection policy, it is imperative that the  
8 State act expeditiously to educate and protect public school  
9 students.

10           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
11 education and the department of human services to establish and  
12 administer a sun protection program designed to protect public  
13 school students and children in group child care homes or care  
14 centers, such as preschools, from the harmful effects of the  
15 sun.

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

19           "§302A-     Sun protection program.   (a)   The department  
20 shall establish and administer a sun protection program in the  
21 public schools to protect students against the harmful effects  
22 of the sun. The program shall encompass students in all public



1 school programs including after-school programs and weekend  
2 community-school activities.

3 (b) The sun protection program shall include but not be  
4 limited to:

5 (1) Developing a curriculum that explains the dangers of  
6 sun exposure and how to best protect students against  
7 the harmful effects of the sun;

8 (2) Assessing the physical environment of all public  
9 school campuses and facilities used for after-school  
10 programs and weekend community-school activities for  
11 students to determine the necessity of increasing the  
12 number of shelters and trees to adequately shade  
13 students and the school grounds;

14 (3) Scheduling outdoor activities during reasonable hours  
15 to protect students against excessive sun exposure;

16 (4) Recommending the use of hats, protective clothing,  
17 sunglasses, and sunscreen with a protection factor of  
18 fifteen or greater to protect students against the  
19 sun; and

20 (5) Requiring regular evaluations of the sun protection  
21 program by students, employees, teachers,  
22 administrators, and parents.



1        (c) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91,  
2 necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section."

3        SECTION 3. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately  
5 designated and to read as follows:

6        "§346-    Group child care home and child care center; sun  
7 protection program. (a) The department shall establish and  
8 administer a sun protection program in group child care homes or  
9 group child care centers to protect children against the harmful  
10 effects of the sun.

11        (b) The sun protection program shall include but not be  
12 limited to:

13        (1) Developing a curriculum that explains the dangers of  
14 sun exposure and how to best protect children against  
15 the harmful effects of the sun;

16        (2) Assessing the physical environment of group child care  
17 home or group child care center facilities to provide  
18 recommendations on increasing the number of shelters  
19 and trees to adequately shade children and the  
20 facility grounds;



1       (3) Developing recommendations on outdoor activity  
2       scheduling to protect children against excessive sun  
3       exposure;

4       (4) Recommending the use of hats, protective clothing,  
5       sunglasses, and sunscreen with a protection factor of  
6       fifteen or greater to protect children against the  
7       sun; and

8       (5) Obtaining regular evaluations of the sun protection  
9       program by parents, children, group child care home  
10       and group child care center employees, and  
11       administrators.

12       (c) The department may adopt rules under chapter 91  
13       necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section."

14       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Education; Sun Protection Program

**Description:**

Establishes a sun protection program for students in public schools and county sponsored programs, and ensures the use of sun protection programs in group child care homes and group child care centers.

