
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a key factor
2 influencing a student's ability to learn in public schools is
3 the learning environment. Students learn best when they are
4 physically comfortable and free from unnecessary distractions.
5 Given Hawaii's tropical climate and high temperatures, schools
6 should be equipped with air conditioning to ensure that students
7 have the most comfortable learning environment conducive to
8 fulfilling their educational potential.

9 The purpose of this Act is to require the installation of
10 air conditioning in all public schools based upon the priority
11 established by the department of education.

12 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1501, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "**§302A-1501 Noise and climate control at school**
15 **facilities.** (a) This section shall be known and may be cited
16 as the First Things First Act.

17 (b) The department shall plan for[7] and request
18 appropriations necessary to implement[7-~~acoustic~~] the following:



1 (1) Acoustic noise control [~~and air conditioning~~] of
2 existing and new school facilities in areas that are
3 [~~susceptible to extremes of temperature or~~] affected
4 by aircraft, traffic, and other noise~~[-]~~; and

5 (2) Air conditioning of existing and new school
6 facilities.

7 The department shall develop appropriate standards and consider
8 local conditions [~~for~~] in deciding whether acoustic noise
9 control and air conditioning of existing and new school
10 facilities are required for effective classroom instruction~~[-]~~,
11 including standards to justify why acoustic noise control or air
12 conditioning is not needed. [~~In all cases where~~] Where acoustic
13 treatment of school facilities is planned, the department shall
14 utilize the services of individuals qualified by training and
15 experience to recommend appropriate noise control procedures and
16 components. Acoustic noise control and air conditioning shall
17 be given equal weight [~~as~~] with all other factors in the
18 criteria used by the department in setting priorities for school
19 construction and renovations.

20 (c) Where air conditioners are installed in a school, the
21 department may require that the approximate cost of electricity
22 and maintenance for air conditioners in the school that are not



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1 installed by the department of accounting and general services
2 be paid by a private entity until the department establishes
3 temperature and noise standards and a policy relating to air
4 conditioning.

5 (d) Based upon the standards established in subsection
6 (b), the department shall establish a priority list of schools
7 that are in greatest need of air conditioning; provided that if
8 any administrative office in a departmental school district has
9 air conditioning, then the department shall include all schools
10 in that district on the priority list to have air conditioning
11 installed. Based on the priority list, air conditioning shall
12 be installed in school facilities as follows, the:

13 (1) First twenty per cent of schools on the priority list
14 by December 31, 2012;

15 (2) Second twenty per cent of schools on the priority list
16 by December 31, 2013;

17 (3) Third twenty per cent of schools on the priority list
18 by December 31, 2014;

19 (4) Fourth twenty per cent of schools on the priority list
20 by December 31, 2015; and

21 (5) Fifth twenty per cent of schools on the priority list
22 by December 31, 2016."



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1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Public Schools; Air Conditioning

Description:

Requires the department of education to establish a priority list of public schools with the greatest need for air conditioning and to install air conditioning, based on the priority list.

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