

JAN 20 2012

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that athletic activity
2 promotes physical health, mental alertness, and encourages
3 involvement in school. The effort and time contributed by
4 school cheerleaders is substantially similar to that of other
5 students who participate in officially recognized
6 interscholastic sports. Due to its ongoing nature, cheerleading
7 often requires more time and activity than seasonal sports.
8 Cheerleading is primarily, although not exclusively, performed
9 by female students. The training, skills, and practice sessions
10 of cheerleaders are as demanding and active as sports that are
11 officially recognized, and require the same vigor, stamina,
12 flexibility, and strength. Classifying cheerleading as an
13 interscholastic sport would acknowledge the similarities of the
14 characteristics, abilities, and efforts that cheerleaders share
15 with participants in other school sports, and would provide more
16 opportunities for the dedicated students, who give their time
17 and efforts for the benefit of their schools as cheerleaders.



1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force within
2 the department of education to assess the appropriateness,
3 feasibility, and impact of classifying cheerleading as an
4 interscholastic sport within the public education system, and if
5 deemed appropriate, recommend necessary legislation and create a
6 plan to implement cheerleading as an interscholastic sport for
7 the department of education.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a task force on
9 cheerleading within the department of education. The task force
10 shall consist of the following members:

11 (1) Three members who are cheerleading coaches, appointed
12 by the governor;

13 (2) Two members who represent public high school athletic
14 departments, appointed by the superintendent of
15 education;

16 (3) One member appointed by the president of the senate;
17 and

18 (4) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of
19 representatives;

20 (b) The members of the task force shall not receive
21 compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for



1 necessary expenses, including travel expenses, incurred during
2 the performance of their duties under this Act.

3 (c) The task force shall assess the appropriateness,
4 feasibility, and impact of classifying cheerleading as an
5 interscholastic sport in public school athletic programs,
6 including any insurance and budgetary requirements.

7 If cheerleading as an interscholastic sport is deemed
8 appropriate, the task force shall create an implementation plan
9 for the department of education for the inclusion of
10 cheerleading as an interscholastic sport.

11 (d) The task force shall submit a final report of its
12 finding and recommendations to the legislature no later than
13 July 1, 2013.

14 (e) The department of education shall provide the research
15 and organizational support services necessary to assist the task
16 force in achieving its purposes as required under this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
18 and shall be repealed as of July 1, 2013.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2393

Report Title:

Cheerleading Task Force; Department of Education

Description:

Creates a task force within the DOE to determine the appropriateness, feasibility, and impact of classifying cheerleading as an interscholastic sport.

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