
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that schools should be
2 places of safety and security for children of all ages.
3 However, recent events, including the tragic December 2012
4 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown,
5 Connecticut, highlighted the need to re-evaluate safety
6 procedures currently in place. Although the department of
7 education has safety measures in place, the legislature finds
8 that most of the department's classroom doors can only lock from
9 the outside, and not the inside.

10 The purpose of this Act is to enhance school safety by
11 requiring the department of education to install and maintain
12 classroom doors that can be locked and unlocked in certain
13 emergency situations.

14 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by
15 adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read
16 as follows:

17 "§ - School doors. (a) Notwithstanding any law
18 to the contrary, before July 1, 2015, all classroom doors of



1 every school building of the department of education shall have
2 the capacity to be:

3 (1) Locked from the inside of the classroom; provided that
4 the door shall not have the capacity to be locked from
5 the inside without the use of a:

6 (A) Key;

7 (B) Combination code; or

8 (C) Mechanism that is remotely controlled by the
9 school's principal or the principal's designee;

10 (2) Unlocked from the outside of the classroom; provided
11 that the door shall not have the capacity to be
12 unlocked from the outside without the use of one of
13 the mechanisms described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or
14 (C) of paragraph (1); and

15 (3) Easily opened from the inside of the classroom without
16 the use of any key or other special unlocking
17 mechanism.

18 (b) Doors installed pursuant to subsection (a) shall only
19 be locked pursuant to departmental guidelines issued by the
20 superintendent of education or a designee.

21 (c) In the absence of a finding of gross negligence,
22 neither the department of education, nor the superintendent, nor



1 a principal, nor a principal's designee shall be liable in any
2 civil action for injuries suffered as a result of a
3 determination made to:

- 4 (1) Issue relevant departmental guidelines regarding the
- 5 locking of classroom doors installed pursuant to
- 6 subsection (a); or
- 7 (2) Lock or unlock a school building's classroom door
- 8 installed pursuant to subsection (a).

9 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the
11 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
12 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
13 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
14 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
15 of this Act are severable.

16 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
18 begun before its effective date.

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

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H.B. NO. 1479

Report Title:

School Safety; Classroom Doors

Description:

Requires the department of education to install and maintain classroom doors that can be locked and unlocked in certain emergency situations.

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