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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMAL DISSECTION IN SCHOOLS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that moral, ethical, or  
2 religious principles regarding the humane treatment of animals  
3 make some students unwilling to participate in dissecting or  
4 harming animals. Students who are forced to participate in such  
5 actions may abandon the study of science altogether if not  
6 provided an alternative.

7           The purpose of this Act is to respect student beliefs,  
8 increase student learning, and lower educational costs by:

9           (1) Allowing students to decline to participate in animal  
10           dissections; and

11           (2) Require schools to make alternatives available to  
12           students who have declined to participate in an animal  
13           dissection.

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



1           "§302-       Dissection of animals; opportunity to decline.

2    (a) Any student may decline to participate in the dissection of  
3 any animal, including participating in or observing:

4           (1) The dissection, vivisection, incubation, infliction of  
5           harm, or capture of any animal;

6           (2) Surgery, an invasive procedure, or the experimentation  
7           on an animal; or

8           (3) The termination of any animal's life.

9           (b) Any student who declines to participate in the  
10 dissection of an animal shall be provided with a suitable  
11 alternative education project designed to provide the student  
12 with the equivalent factual knowledge, information, or  
13 experience. Any alternative education project shall not require  
14 more time or effort than the dissection. A comparable grading  
15 method shall assess the alternative project.

16           (c) If a test or examination requires the dissection of an  
17 animal or the use of a dissected animal, any student who has  
18 declined to participate in the dissection of an animal shall be  
19 provided with an alternative test or examination that does not  
20 use an animal specimen.



1        (d) No student shall be penalized or discriminated against  
2 for declining to participate in the dissection of any animal;  
3 provided that the student fulfills the requirements of the  
4 assigned alternative education project or test or examination.

5        (e) Each school shall notify its students and their  
6 parents in writing of the option to decline to participate in  
7 the dissection of any animal:

8        (1) At the beginning of each semester; and

9        (2) Not less than three weeks prior to any scheduled  
10 dissection;

11 provided that any student may decline to participate in the  
12 dissection of an animal on the day of the dissection.

13        (f) As used in this section:

14        "Animal" means any living organism, including, but not  
15 limited to, frogs, cats, fetal pigs, and earthworms, including  
16 an animal's cadaver or severed parts thereof.

17        "Alternative education project" means the use of video  
18 equipment, models, films, books, photos, pictures, computers,  
19 live observation in the wild or in zoos, or any other tools  
20 which provide an alternative method to the use of live or once



1 live animals for obtaining and testing knowledge, information,  
2 or experience."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Richard Cuy

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# H.B. NO. 2759

**Report Title:**

Dissection; Animals; Students; Department of Education

**Description:**

Authorizes DOE students to decline to dissect animals. Requires schools to provide an alternative to students who have declined.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

