

JAN 22 2016

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STUDENT INFORMED CONSENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. For decades, students have participated in the  
2 dissection and vivisection of animals as part of traditional  
3 educational curricula. The legislature finds that advancements  
4 in computer software now make it possible for schools to respect  
5 each student's ethical, moral or religious position regarding  
6 the humane treatment of animals without sacrificing learning  
7 objectives. The purpose of this act is to require public  
8 schools to make educational alternatives to the dissection and  
9 vivisection of animals available to all students.

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

13           "§302A-    Student's informed consent to decline  
14 participation in animal dissection and vivisection. (a) A  
15 student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in any public  
16 school in the state may decline to participate in or observe,  
17 wholly or in part, any of the following activities involving



1 animals as part of a course of study: dissection, vivisection,  
2 incubation, infliction of harm, capture, or destruction of an  
3 animal. A student may also decline to participate in or observe  
4 any part of surgery, other invasive procedures or experiments  
5 performed on an animal, or any termination of life.

6 (b) A student who exercises his or her right to decline  
7 participation in any of the activities involving animals listed  
8 in subsection (a) must be given a suitable alternative education  
9 project designed to provide the student with factual knowledge,  
10 information, or experience required by the course of study.

11 (c) If a test requires the use of dissection or dissected  
12 specimens, students shall be offered an alternative test that  
13 does not use such specimens.

14 (d) A student may not be penalized or discriminated  
15 against, with regard to grade for the class, removal from the  
16 class, or otherwise, for refusing to participate in or observe  
17 any activities set forth in subsection (a).

18 (e) The state board of education shall adopt necessary  
19 rules and regulations to ensure the proper administration and  
20 compliance with this act, including, but not limited to,  
21 notifying all schools and requiring each school to notify its



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1 students and their parents, in writing, at a time to be  
 2 specified by the board, that all students have the right to  
 3 refuse participation or observation of any activities involving  
 4 animals listed in subsection (a)."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

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**Report Title:**

Student Informed Consent to Animal Dissection and Vivisection

**Description:**

Allows public school students in grades K through 12 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection and other procedures harmful to animals. Prompts schools to make alternative educational projects available, and the board of education to develop rules and give notice to all schools.

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

