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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. The legislature finds that for decades,  
2 students have participated in the dissection and vivisection of  
3 animals as part of traditional educational curricula. However,  
4 advancements in computer software now make it possible for  
5 schools to respect each student's ethical, moral, or religious  
6 position regarding the humane treatment of animals without  
7 sacrificing learning objectives.

8           The purpose of this Act is to allow public school students  
9 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection, and other  
10 procedures harmful to animals and to require public schools to  
11 make educational alternatives to the dissection and vivisection  
12 of animals available to all students.

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

16           "§302A-        Student's informed consent to decline  
17 participation in animal dissection and vivisection. (a) A



1 student enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve in any  
2 public school in the State may decline to participate in or  
3 observe, wholly or in part, any of the following activities  
4 involving animals as part of a course of study: dissection,  
5 vivisection, incubation, infliction of harm, capture, or  
6 destruction of an animal. A student may also decline to  
7 participate in or observe any part of surgery, other invasive  
8 procedures or experiments performed on an animal, or any  
9 termination of life.

10 (b) A student who exercises the student's right to decline  
11 participation in any of the activities involving animals listed  
12 in subsection (a) shall be given a suitable alternative  
13 education project designed to provide the student with factual  
14 knowledge, information, or experience required by the course of  
15 study.

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

19 (d) A student shall not be penalized or discriminated  
20 against, with regard to grade for the class, removal from the



1 class, or otherwise, for refusing to participate in or observe  
2 any activities set forth in subsection (a).

3 (e) The board shall adopt necessary rules to ensure the  
4 proper administration of and compliance with this section,  
5 including but not limited to notifying all schools and requiring  
6 each school to notify its students and their parents, in  
7 writing, at a time to be specified by the board, that all  
8 students have the right to refuse participation or observation  
9 of any activities involving animals listed in subsection (a)."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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# S.B. NO. 111

**Report Title:**

Student Informed Consent to Animal Dissection and Vivisection;  
Public Schools

**Description:**

Allows public school students in grades K through 12 to decline participation in dissection, vivisection, and other procedures harmful to animals. Requires 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.*

