
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 the Institute of
2 Education Sciences, the research arm of the United States
3 Department of Education, has concluded that class-size reduction
4 is one of only four evidence-based reforms proven to increase
5 student achievement. Experiments in Tennessee, Wisconsin, and
6 other states have demonstrated that students in smaller classes
7 score better on standardized tests, receive better grades, and
8 exhibit improved attendance.

9 Moreover, students who benefit the most from smaller class
10 sizes come from poor and minority backgrounds. These students
11 experience twice the achievement gains of the average student.
12 A study commissioned by the United States Department of
13 Education analyzed the achievement of students in 2,561 schools
14 across the nation by their performance on National Assessment of
15 Educational Progress exams. After controlling for student
16 background, the only objective factor that correlated with
17 higher test scores was class size.



1 The purpose of this Act is to reduce public school class
2 sizes at all grade levels.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 "§302A- Class size. (a) Notwithstanding any other law
7 to the contrary, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the
8 size of public school classes shall be limited as follows:

9 (1) No elementary school class shall exceed an enrollment
10 of twenty students; provided that:

11 (A) An inclusion class shall be limited to an
12 enrollment of fifteen students;

13 (B) A fully self-contained class shall be limited to
14 an enrollment of four students; and

15 (C) A content-based English-language learning class
16 shall be limited to an enrollment of fifteen
17 students; and

18 (2) No secondary school class shall exceed an enrollment
19 of twenty-six students; provided that:

20 (A) An inclusion class shall be limited to an
21 enrollment of twenty students;



1 (B) A fully self-contained class shall be limited to
2 an enrollment of six students; and

3 (C) A content-based English-language learning class
4 shall be limited to an enrollment of twenty
5 students.

6 (b) For purposes of this section, the following
7 definitions shall apply:

8 "Content-based English-language learning class" means any
9 class providing instruction only to students with limited
10 English-language proficiency.

11 "Fully self-contained class" means any class that provides
12 instruction only to special education students.

13 "Inclusion class" means any class that provides instruction
14 to general education and special education students.

15 "Special education" means specially designed instruction to
16 meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.

17 (c) The class-size limitations set forth in this section
18 shall not apply to charter schools or to any class that provides
19 instruction in band, choir, orchestra, or theater."

20 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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H.B. NO. 2146

Report Title:

Education; Class Size; Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

Description:

Establishes limits on class sizes for public elementary and secondary schools, excluding charter schools and classes for instruction in band, choir, orchestra, or theater.

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