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# 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 staggered start  
2 times for Hawaii's schools should be studied to determine the  
3 impact of this component in the overall establishment of an  
4 educational system that produces the best learning environment  
5 for Hawaii's elementary, middle, and high school students.

6           According to the nonprofit Start School Later, early start  
7 times began in the latter half of the twentieth century due to  
8 the limited fleets of suburban school buses. Suburban schools  
9 staggered their school start times to allow the same fleet of  
10 buses to serve all students. High school students were dropped-  
11 off the earliest. Urban schools adopted this system of  
12 transporting students to their respective schools, and  
13 extracurricular activities aligned themselves with this  
14 staggered start time schedule.

15           Research at the University of Minnesota found that  
16 teenagers typically cannot fall asleep until 10:45 p.m. or 11:00



1 p.m. In contrast, a pediatrician at Blank Children's Hospital  
2 found that younger children typically fall asleep at 9:00 p.m.

3 Isabel Fattal, in her November 12, 2017, article "Why Are  
4 Parents Afraid of Later School Start Times?", reported that the  
5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has urged a later  
6 start time of 8:30 a.m. for middle and high school students.  
7 However, federal data for the 2015-2016 school year indicates  
8 that over eighty-five per cent of public high schools start  
9 before 8:30 a.m.

10 Although there is scientific evidence of the advantages of  
11 a later start time for certain age groups of students, there are  
12 other considerations that complicate the implementation of  
13 staggered start times, such as impacts for sports and other  
14 after school activities, issues relating to transporting  
15 students to and from schools, and financial considerations.

16 The purpose of this Act is to establish a staggered school  
17 start times task force to study and evaluate the issues and  
18 implications of instituting a staggered school start times  
19 program in Hawaii's public school system, including examining  
20 staggering the start times of department of education schools to



1 achieve more efficient and cost-effective school bus service  
2 schedules for grades kindergarten through twelve.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The superintendent of education or the  
4 superintendent's designee shall convene a staggered school start  
5 times task force to study and evaluate the issues and  
6 implications of instituting a staggered school start times  
7 program in Hawaii's public school system, including examining  
8 staggering the start times of department of education schools to  
9 achieve more efficient and cost-effective school bus service  
10 schedules for grades kindergarten through twelve.

11 In examining the start times of public schools, the  
12 staggered school start times task force shall consider current  
13 and projected school bus service schedules and:

14 (1) The projected costs and cost-savings realized as a  
15 result of modifying school bus service schedules; and

16 (2) The impacts on student learning and achievement,  
17 instructional time, and safety and other effects of  
18 modifying school bus service schedules on students,  
19 teachers, faculty, and the community.

20 (b) The superintendent of education or the  
21 superintendent's designee shall serve as the chairperson of the



1 staggered school start times task force and shall invite the  
2 following individuals or their designees to serve as members of  
3 the task force:

- 4 (1) A high school principal;
- 5 (2) A middle or an intermediate school principal;
- 6 (3) An elementary school principal;
- 7 (4) The Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for  
8 Education;
- 9 (5) A representative of after-school program providers for  
10 elementary schools;
- 11 (6) A representative of after-school programs providers  
12 for middle or intermediate schools;
- 13 (7) A representative from the Hawaii State Teachers  
14 Association;
- 15 (8) A representative from the Hawaii Government Employees  
16 Association; and
- 17 (9) Any other individuals as determined by the  
18 superintendent of education.

19 (c) The members of the staggered school start times task  
20 force shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed



1 for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the  
2 performance of their duties.

3 (d) The staggered school start times task force shall be  
4 exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and shall act  
5 in an advisory capacity.

6 (e) The staggered school start times task force shall  
7 report its findings and recommendations on staggered school  
8 start times, including proposed legislation, to the legislature  
9 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
10 session of 2020. The report shall include:

11 (1) A compilation of accurate research and fiscal and  
12 demographic information relating to staggered school  
13 start times in other jurisdictions;

14 (2) Research on and evaluation of other state and school  
15 systems' organizational policy agendas and best  
16 practices related to staggered school start times;

17 (3) The micro and macro fiscal impact on the department of  
18 education, state government, and residents of the  
19 State with particular attention to residents with  
20 children in elementary, middle, or high school;



- 1           (4) A comparison, assessment, and evaluation of the
- 2           current practices of Hawaii's school system and a
- 3           system based on staggered school start times;
- 4           (5) The legal and practical impediments, including
- 5           existing contracts and collective bargaining matters,
- 6           to implementing a staggered school start times
- 7           program; and
- 8           (6) The time frame, considering facilities and
- 9           modifications thereto and necessary education,
- 10          administrative, and support personnel, to implement a
- 11          staggered school start times program.
- 12          (f) The staggered school start times task force shall
- 13          terminate on June 30, 2020.

14           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

15          revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much

16          thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 to carry

17          out the purposes of this Act.

18           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of

19          education for the purposes of this Act.



# H.B. NO. 318

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Amy Parnes

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JAN 18 2019



# H.B. NO. 318

**Report Title:**

Public Schools; Staggered School Start Times; School Bus Service Schedules; Task Force; Study

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to convene a Staggered School Start Times Task Force to study and evaluate the issues and implications of instituting a staggered school start times program, including effects on school bus schedules. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

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

