
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 staggered school start times in the overall
4 establishment of an educational system that produces the best
5 learning environment for Hawaii's elementary, middle, and high
6 school students.

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

16 Research at the University of Minnesota found that
17 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 the state public school system, including examining
20 staggering the start times of public schools to achieve more



1 efficient and cost-effective school bus service schedules for
2 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 the state public school system, including examining
8 staggering the start times of public schools to achieve more
9 efficient and cost-effective school bus service schedules for
10 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 public high school principal;
 - 5 (2) A public middle or an intermediate school principal;
 - 6 (3) A public elementary school principal;
 - 7 (4) The Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for
8 Education;
 - 9 (5) An individual representing after-school program
10 providers for elementary schools;
 - 11 (6) An individual representing after-school program
12 providers 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 the state public school system
3 and a 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.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires the Department of Education 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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