
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PREFERRED NAMES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of an
2 individual's name assigned at birth, rather than their preferred
3 name, is often referred to as "deadnaming". Failing to use a
4 student's preferred name on student records and in campus
5 settings can undermine the emotional well-being of transgender,
6 indigenous, minority, and other children, leading to bullying,
7 discrimination, violence, and loss of educational and economic
8 opportunities.

9 The legislature further finds that deadnaming in
10 educational settings is a common practice. Yet, research has
11 found that using students' preferred names is associated with
12 improved mental health outcomes. For example, a 2018 study
13 published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* found that using
14 transgender youths' preferred names in more contexts was
15 associated with lower rates of depression, suicidal ideation,
16 and suicidal behavior, and that the odds of each were lowest
17 when preferred names were used in more contexts.



1 The legislature notes that the university of Hawaii has
2 already adopted a system by which any student may use a
3 preferred name to foster an inclusive and supportive campus
4 environment. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require
5 the department of education to implement a process to allow
6 students to use preferred names to strengthen inclusivity in
7 public schools.

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

11 "§302A- Preferred name for students. (a) The
12 department shall implement a system by which current or former
13 students can declare a preferred name to be used in their
14 records where legal names are not required by law.

15 (b) Upon the request of an individual, the department
16 shall update any records for current or former students to
17 include the preferred name. The records that shall be updated
18 to include the following:

- 19 (1) School-issued email addresses;
20 (2) Campus identification cards;
21 (3) Class rosters;



1 (4) Transcripts; and

2 (5) Diplomas, certificates of completion of courses, or
3 other similar records.

4 (c) The department shall not charge a fee for correcting,
5 updating, or reissuing a document or record based on the
6 declaration of a preferred name.

7 (d) Commencing with the 2024-2025 graduating class, the
8 department shall provide an option for a graduating student to
9 request that the diploma to be conferred by the department list
10 the student's preferred name; provided that the department shall
11 not require a graduating student to provide legal documentation
12 to demonstrate a legal name in order to have the student's
13 preferred name listed on the student's diploma."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

16

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 18 2024



H.B. NO. 1799

Report Title:

DOE; Public Schools; Preferred Names

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to implement a process to allow students to use preferred names to strengthen inclusivity in public schools.

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