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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 staggered school start times in the overall  
4 establishment of an educational system that produces the best  
5 learning environment for Hawaii's K-12 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 also 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  
17 11:00 p.m. In contrast, a pediatrician at Blank Children's



1 Hospital found that younger children typically fall asleep at  
2 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:

- 13 (1) Current and projected school bus service schedules;
- 14 (2) The projected costs and cost-savings realized as a  
15 result of modifying school bus service schedules; and
- 16 (3) The impacts on student learning and achievement,  
17 instructional time, and safety, as well as other  
18 effects of modifying school bus service schedules on  
19 students, 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 school or intermediate school  
6 principal;
- 7 (3) A public elementary school principal;
- 8 (4) The Executive Director of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for  
9 Education;
- 10 (5) An individual representing after-school program  
11 providers for elementary schools;
- 12 (6) An individual representing after-school program  
13 providers for middle schools or intermediate schools;
- 14 (7) A representative from the Hawaii State Teachers  
15 Association;
- 16 (8) A representative from the Hawaii Government Employees  
17 Association; and
- 18 (9) Any other individuals as determined by the  
19 superintendent of education.

20 (c) The members of the staggered school start times task  
21 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  
4 report its findings and recommendations on staggered school  
5 start times, including proposed legislation, to the legislature  
6 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
7 session of 2025. The report shall include:

8 (1) A compilation of accurate research and fiscal and  
9 demographic information relating to staggered school  
10 start times in other jurisdictions;

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

14 (3) The fiscal impact on the department of education,  
15 state government, and residents of the State with  
16 particular attention to residents with children in  
17 elementary, middle or intermediate, or high school;

18 (4) A comparison, assessment, and evaluation of the  
19 current practices of the state public school system  
20 and a system based on staggered school start times;



1 (5) The legal and practical impediments, including  
2 existing contracts and collective bargaining matters,  
3 to implementing a staggered school start times  
4 program; and

5 (6) The time frame, considering facilities and  
6 modifications thereto and necessary education,  
7 administrative, and support personnel, to implement a  
8 staggered school start times program.

9 (e) The staggered school start times task force shall  
10 terminate on June 30, 2025.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
14 the establishment and administration of the staggered school  
15 start times task force.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
17 education for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
19 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
20 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
21 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state



1 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
 2 exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. In addition, the  
 3 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
 4 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
 5 exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. The combined total  
 6 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
 7 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
 8 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
 9 \$                    or                    per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
 10 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 11            (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
 12                    serve the public interest; and
- 13            (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
 14                    addressed by this Act.

15            SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

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

**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 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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