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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOLS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part I, subpart A, to be  
3 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

4           "§302A-     Student prayers.   (a) Each public school with  
5 students in grade kindergarten, grade six, or any intervening  
6 grade shall authorize the school's faculty and staff to provide,  
7 on a weekly or more frequent basis, time and space for students  
8 to engage in student-led group prayer or individual student  
9 prayer; provided that:

10           (1) No public school student shall be compelled, against  
11           the student's objections or the objections of the  
12           student's parent or guardian, to participate in  
13           prayer;

14           (2) No public school teacher or staff member shall  
15           admonish, discipline, or harass a student based on the  
16           student's participation or non-participation in  
17           prayer; and



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1        (3) No public school teacher or staff member shall be  
2                    admonished, disciplined, or harassed for either  
3                    deciding or declining to supervise any location in  
4                    which students are praying.

5        (b) A copy of this section shall be posted in a  
6                    conspicuous location at each public school that is subject to  
7                    this section.

8        (c) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
9                    carry out the purposes of this section."

10        SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
11                    matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
12                    begun before its effective date.

13        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: *Davis*  
JAN 19 2023



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**Report Title:**

Education; Public Schools; Elementary Students; Student Prayer

**Description:**

Requires public schools with elementary students to allow faculty and staff to provide, on a weekly or more frequent basis, time and space for students to engage in student-led group prayer or individual student prayer.

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

