
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that over-exposure to
2 ultraviolet rays present in sunlight poses a threat to the
3 health of Hawaii's children. Playing outdoors when the
4 ultraviolet index is high can cause sunburns; increase risks of
5 skin cancers later in life, including malignant melanoma; and
6 can heat playground surfaces and equipment to dangerous
7 temperatures that can cause burns. In addition, on days where
8 temperatures and humidity are high, there is a risk of heat
9 exhaustion, heat stroke, and other heat-related illnesses that
10 would be lessened if more shaded areas were available on
11 Hawaii's public school playgrounds.

12 The legislature further finds that rising energy costs
13 across the State have led to increased spending for utilities.
14 According to the Energy Information Administration, the State's
15 average electricity cost increased from 31.11 cents per kilowatt
16 hour in 2021 to 42.15 cents per kilowatt hour in 2022, more than
17 three times the national average. The legislature also finds



1 that taxpayers would be well-served by department of education
2 investments in renewable energy systems on their facilities to
3 lower utility bills and that the issue of ultraviolet exposure
4 could also be addressed by putting shade structures over outdoor
5 play areas, which could double as surfaces upon which renewable
6 energy systems can be installed. The legislature notes that
7 there is funding available in the Inflation Reduction Act, which
8 has provisions to allow direct payments to tax-exempt entities,
9 including states, cities, and public schools, to cover up to
10 thirty per cent of a solar project's cost.

11 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require the
12 department of education to:

- 13 (1) Assess its facilities and provide the legislature with
14 a list of priority facilities in each county at which
15 the installation of renewable energy systems on the
16 school facilities would provide the most benefit;
- 17 (2) Provide a list of priority play areas on school
18 campuses in each county that are most in need of
19 covered play areas to protect children from over-
20 exposure to heat and ultraviolet rays;



1 (3) Assess and report on the feasibility of including
2 renewable energy systems on play area covers on school
3 campuses; and

4 (4) Submit a report to the legislature.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall:

6 (1) Assess its facilities and provide the legislature with
7 a list of priority facilities in each county at which
8 the installation of renewable energy systems,
9 including battery storage, on school facilities would
10 provide the most benefit, including costs associated
11 with and timelines for the completion of the
12 installations;

13 (2) Provide a list of priority play areas on school
14 campuses in each county that are most in need of
15 covered play areas to protect children from over-
16 exposure to heat and ultraviolet rays, based on data
17 including average and highest temperatures,
18 ultraviolet index ratings, and days without cloud
19 cover in an area; and



1 (3) Assess and report on the feasibility of including
2 renewable energy systems on play area covers on school
3 campuses.

4 (b) The department of education shall submit a report of
5 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
6 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
7 to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

9



Report Title:

Department of Education; Photovoltaic Panels; Playgrounds

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to assess its facilities and provide the legislature with a list of priority facilities in each county at which the installation of renewable energy systems on school facilities would provide the most benefit, provide a list of priority play areas on school campuses in each county that are most in need of covered play areas to protect children from over-exposure to heat and ultraviolet rays, and assess and report on the feasibility of including renewable energy systems on play area covers on school campuses. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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