

JAN 23 2025

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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 cellphone use in  
2 schools can be detrimental to student achievement and wellbeing.  
3 Research has shown that allowing cellphones in the classroom  
4 impacts student focus and engagement, leading to decreased  
5 academic performance on tests and adversely impacting students'  
6 long-term learning retention. Excessive cellphone use can also  
7 distract students from in-person socialization, which is  
8 critical for students' physical and mental wellbeing.

9       The legislature further finds that there is a growing  
10 number of states that are banning or restricting cellphone use  
11 in schools. At least nineteen states have passed laws or  
12 enacted policies that ban or restrict students' use of  
13 cellphones in schools statewide or have recommended that local  
14 districts enact bans or restrictive policies. In Hawaii,  
15 efforts to ban cellphones in schools has had a positive impact  
16 on students, with teachers reporting fewer distractions in class  
17 and more social interactions among students.



1 The purpose of this Act is to require the board of  
2 education to adopt a policy that bans the use of cell phones and  
3 related devices, such as smart watches, earbuds, AirPods, and  
4 Bluetooth connected headphones, by students during school hours.

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

8 "§302A- Phone-and-related-devices-free, bell-to-bell  
9 policy. The board shall establish a phone-and-related-devices-  
10 free, bell-to-bell policy for public schools to be implemented  
11 beginning with the 2025-2026 school year; provided that the  
12 policy may be implemented in phases for each school level."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

15 INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 1264

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; Phones; Related Devices; Ban

**Description:**

Requires the Board of Education to adopt a policy that bans the use of phones and related devices by students during school hours.

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

