

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION, TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE PRACTICES OF MANAGING HEAT EXPOSURE IN DEPARTMENT AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROTECT STUDENTS' HEALTH DURING OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has experienced rising air temperatures,
2 with annual peak averages consistently breaking record highs;
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5 WHEREAS, these increases, along with Hawaii's high average
6 annual relative humidity, pose significant challenges for human
7 thermoregulation; and
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9 WHEREAS, exercising in hot and humid weather can be
10 dangerous, as the body's ability to cool itself through sweating
11 becomes less effective under humid conditions; and
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13 WHEREAS, when sweat cannot evaporate efficiently due to
14 high moisture levels in the air, the risk of heat-related
15 illnesses increases; and
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17 WHEREAS, children and younger athletes are particularly
18 vulnerable to exertional heat illness due to slower heat
19 acclimatization, reduced thermoregulation capabilities compared
20 to adults, and external pressures from coaches and parents to
21 exceed their physical limits; and
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23 WHEREAS, additionally, children often lack control over the
24 timing and conditions of outdoor activities, such as recess and
25 individual or team practices, and may have limited access to
26 hydration during these activities; and
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28 WHEREAS, shade can significantly reduce the risk of heat-
29 related illnesses by providing cooler spaces for students to
30 exercise, train, and play; and



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WHEREAS, expanding shaded areas on school campuses and properties is critical for creating safer environments during outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, identifying and developing areas on campuses to increase shade access is an essential strategy for protecting children from dangerous levels of heat; and

WHEREAS, wet-bulb globe temperature measurements are the gold standard for assessing heat stress, as adopted by organizations such as the United States military, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Collegiate Athletic Association, and professional sports leagues; and

WHEREAS, wet-bulb globe thermometers are also relatively affordable for schools and athletic departments to acquire and use, making them a practical tool for ensuring safer outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, despite these known challenges and expected increasing temperatures, Hawaii currently lacks statewide guidelines for managing extreme heat during outdoor recreational activities, leaving children at risk of preventable heat-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, an in-depth study is necessary to determine the best practices for managing heat exposure and to develop a plan if the existing practices are insufficient in ensuring student safety from heat exposure; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and State Public Charter School Commission, is requested to conduct a study on the practices of managing heat exposure in department and charter schools to protect students' health during outdoor activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in its study, the Department of Education is requested to look at the feasibility of using a wet



1 bulb globe temperature as a standard for measuring heat stress;
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Department of Education
5 determines that the existing practices are insufficient in
6 safeguarding the well-being of students from heat exposure in
7 the course of conducting the study, the Department is requested
8 to develop a plan that includes guidelines for managing heat
9 exposure to protect students' health during outdoor activities;
10 provided that the guidelines:

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- 12 (1) Apply to all department and charter schools in the
13 State;
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 - 15 (2) Be utilized for sports practices, conditioning
16 workouts, recess, marching band practice, junior
17 reserve officers' training corps activities, and other
18 outdoor activities;
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 - 20 (3) Include protocols for ensuring adequate hydration
21 during outdoor activities;
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 - 23 (4) Include training for school staff on recognizing and
24 responding to symptoms of exertional heat illness;
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 - 26 (5) Include measures to safeguard students with medical
27 conditions or medications that impair
28 thermoregulation; and
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 - 30 (6) Include recommendations for acclimatizing or re-
31 acclimatizing students returning to outdoor activities
32 after a period of absence; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
35 requested to assess the ongoing cost of guideline implementation
36 and continued maintenance and include the assessment in the
37 Department's study; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
40 requested to submit the study, including any findings,
41 recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the Legislature no



1 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
2 Session of 2026; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should a plan be developed by
5 the Department of Education, the Department is requested to
6 complete and submit the plan to the Legislature no later than
7 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
8 2027; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to Superintendent of Education,
12 Director of Health, and Chairperson of the State Public Charter
13 School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

