JAN 1 5 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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 be appropriately designated
- 3 and to read as follows:
- 4 "§302A- Attendance; mental health; excused absence. The
- 5 department shall identify an absence due to the mental or
- 6 behavioral health of a student as an excused absence. Not more
- 7 than excused absences due to the mental or behavioral
- 8 health of a student may be taken by a student each academic
- 9 year.
- 10 For the purposes of this section, "excused absence" means
- 11 an absence identified by the department as exempt from penalties
- 12 relating to the failure of a student to meet the requirements
- 13 for regular attendance at school."
- 14 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1136, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 15 amended to read as follows:
- "[+] §302A-1136[+] Enforcement. (a) The department shall
- 17 be charged with the enforcement of sections 302A-1132 to

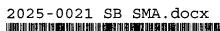
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S.B. NO. 34

- 1 302A-1135. Nothing in this section shall relieve any chief of
- 2 police or police officer of the chief's or officer's
- 3 responsibility for the enforcement of these sections, but their
- 4 enforcement shall be subject to the plans and policies of the
- 5 department.
- 6 (b) An absence by a student due to the mental health of
- 7 the student shall be exempted from this section."
- 8 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
- 9 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
- 10 begun before its effective date.
- 11 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
- 12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
- 13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



Report Title:

DOE; Education; Attendance; Mental Health; Exemption; Excused Absence

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to identify an absence due to the mental health of a student as an excused absence. Defines the term "excused absence". Exempts an absence due to the mental health of a student from the enforcement of penalties relating to compulsory attendance at school. Limits the number of excused absences that may be taken by a student due to mental health reasons.

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