

JAN 15 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:

16 "~~{}~~ §302A-1136 ~~{}~~ **Enforcement.** (a) The department shall
17 be charged with the enforcement of sections 302A-1132 to



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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed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:

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S.B. NO. 34

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.

