

ACT 193

S.B. NO. 2327

A Bill for an Act Relating to Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The intent of the legislature is to ensure the safety of children through the timely reporting of child abuse and neglect.

The purpose of this bill is to strengthen the child abuse reporting statute to ensure that instances of known or suspected child abuse or neglect are reported without delay by requiring the staff at any public or private school, agency, or institution, who observe signs of the abuse or neglect, to report the abuse or neglect directly to the department of human services or the police. This direct reporting will also ensure that the best evidence of abuse or neglect is obtained.

SECTION 2. Section 350-1.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) Whenever a person designated in subsection (a) is a member of the staff of any public or private school, agency, or institution, that staff member shall immediately report the known or suspected child abuse or neglect directly to the department or to the police department and also shall immediately notify the person in charge[,] or a designated delegate[, who shall immediately report, or cause reports to be made,] of the report made in accordance with this chapter.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

(Approved June 14, 2006.)