

ACT 260

S.B. NO. 2862

A Bill for an Act Relating to Education.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hot classroom temperatures in Hawaii's public schools can adversely affect students by making them drowsy, irritable, and unmotivated. Hawaii's overheated classrooms can also cause students to suffer headaches, nausea, heat rashes, heat exhaustion, and, in severe cases, heat stroke. Additionally, studies show that while classroom temperatures over eighty degrees can negatively impact student achievement, temperatures in Hawaii's classrooms are regularly recorded at over one hundred degrees during certain periods of the school year.

The legislature additionally finds that \$100,000,000 was appropriated for the department of education's heat abatement program through Act 47, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016. While the \$100,000,000 appropriated in 2016 successfully funded heat abatement upgrades for over one thousand three hundred public school classrooms, over five thousand classrooms still require heat abatement improvements. With classroom temperatures continuing to escalate because of the impact of climate change on the State, providing heat abatement upgrades for overheated classrooms remains a high priority for Hawaii's public school system.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the installation of air conditioning in Hawaii's public school classrooms.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$10,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the installation of air conditioning in Hawaii public school classrooms that have not received air conditioning units or other heat abatement measures.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of education for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

(Approved July 7, 2022.)