

PU'UHALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE & TARDY POLICY

HAWAII STATE COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

Under *Hawaii Revised States (H.R.S) 302A-1132 - Public school attendance*, all school age children must attend either public or private school unless exempted. School age children are children who will be at least **five (5)*** years old and who will not be eighteen years by January 1, of any school year. This section states that any parent or guardian having the responsibility for the care of the child must ensure that the child attend school unless exempted by law. **“In other words, the LAW states that a child age 5 through 18 must attend school unless they are exempted.”**

Furthermore, the State of Hawaii (HI) Department of Education (HIDOE), defines **truancy** as unauthorized absences from school. *H.R.S. 302-1136 – Enforcement*, places the responsibility for enforcing compulsory attendance with DOE. Towards this end, agreements have been developed with all departments with the state regarding truant students. Students who are chronic absentees may be referred to Family Court, Pursuant to *H.R.S. 571-11(2) - Family court*. Family Court can place a child under jurisdiction for truancy if the child is not attending school or is not receiving the educational services required by law.

H.R.S. 302A-1135 provides that the parent or guardian who does not enforce the child's regular school attendance may be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. The penalty for petty misdemeanor is a fine of up to \$1,000 (H.R.S. 706-604) or jail time up to thirty (30) days (H.R.S. 706-663). **“In other words, it is the parent or guardian's responsibility to ensure that the child attends school daily!”**

We believe that regular school attendance is a strong factor that affects quality education and success in graduating from high school. Pu'u hale School's goal is to provide an early intervention approach to assist and support any child and the family at an early age, and to hold parents/guardians accountable for regular school attendance with consequences for unauthorized time away from school. Please read the student planner for the details.

*In 2014, Act 76 was signed into law making **kindergarten attendance mandatory**.

Pu'uhale Elementary School Attendance Policy

Every uninformed absence: A reminder/warning phone call from school.

3rd-4th uninformed absence/tardy: Classroom Teacher will call home.

5th uninformed absence/tardy: Classroom teacher will send home an attendance letter.

7th absence/tardy (both informed and uninformed): Classroom teacher will contact a parent/guardian via phone call and/or face to face. The classroom teacher will send home an attendance letter (2nd notice). Parent conference will be scheduled with teacher to discuss attendance plan.

10th absence/tardy: Classroom teacher will send an attendance letter (3rd notice). Parent conference will be scheduled with classroom teacher, counselor and Social Worker to discuss and develop attendance plan.

13th absence/tardy: Principal will send an attendance letter (4th notice).

15th absence/tardy: Home visit from school and possible referrals to outside agencies for additional support. Conference with Principal.

16th and more: If attendance does not improve, a Family Court petition for Educational Neglect may be submitted.