

HAWAII

Compulsory Attendance Ages:	Age “five on or before July 31” to “age eighteen years, by January 1.” Hawaii Revised Statutes § 302A-1132(a).
Required Days of Instruction:	None.
Required Subjects:	Curriculum must “be structured and based on educational objectives as well as the needs of the child, be cumulative and sequential, provide a range of up-to-date knowledge and needed skills, and take into account the interests, needs, and abilities of the child.” An elementary school curriculum “may include” language arts, math, social studies, science, art, music, health, and physical education. A secondary school curriculum “may include” social studies, English, math, science, health, physical education, and guidance. Hawaii Administrative Rules § 8-12-15.

Homeschool Statute: Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1132(a)(5)

Homeschools have two options:

Option 1. A child is exempt from public school attendance if “notification of intent to home school has been submitted to the principal of the public school that the child would otherwise be required to attend in accordance with department rules adopted to achieve this result.” Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1132(a)(5).

According to Haw. Admin. R. §§ 8-12-1 to 8-12-22,

- a. Parents must provide a notice of intent to home educate to the principal of the local public school the child would otherwise be required to attend. The letter should be sent “before initiating home schooling” and at the beginning of each school year when the student would attend a different public school because of grade level. The notice of intent may be submitted on a department developed form or in a letter containing the following items: name, address, and telephone number of the child; birthdate and grade level of the child; and the parent’s signature. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-13.
- b. “A parent teaching the parent’s child at home shall be deemed a qualified instructor.” Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-19.
- c. Parents must keep “a record of the planned curriculum” which must include the commencement date and ending date of the program, the number of hours per week of instruction, the subjects to be covered, the method used to determine mastery of materials and subjects in the curriculum, and a list of textbooks or other instructional materials. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-15.
- d. “The parent shall notify the principal if homeschooling is terminated. A child shall be re-enrolled in the local public school or licensed private school unless a new alternative educational program is

presented within five school days after the termination of home schooling.” Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-16.

Educational neglect charges cannot be based on the refusal of parents to comply with any requests by public school officials that exceed the requirements of this chapter. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-17.

Option 2. A child is exempt from compulsory attendance when “enrolled in an appropriate alternative educational program as approved by the superintendent.” Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1132(a)(5). Hawaii regulations define alternative education program as “an educational program, in a non-school setting other than home schooling, which addresses the standards identified in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards.” Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-2.

According to Haw. Admin. R. §§ 8-12-1 to 8-12-22,

- a. Parents must annually submit Form 4140 and a planned curriculum to the principal of the local public school the child would otherwise be required to attend. The submittal shall include: the commencement date and ending date of the program, number of hours per week the child will spend in instruction (must average about three hours per school day), subject areas to be covered, method used to determine mastery, and a list of instructional materials. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-8.
- b. “The parent shall notify the principal if the alternative educational program is terminated. The child shall be re-enrolled in the local public school or licensed private school unless satisfactory evidence of a new alternative educational program is presented within five school days after the termination of the former alternative educational program.” Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-9.

Teacher Qualifications: None for parents under Option 1. Instructors under Option 2 must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university.

Standardized Tests: For Option 1: at the conclusion of grades 3, 5, 8, and 10, the scores of a criterion or norm-referenced standardized achievement test of the parent’s choice must be submitted to the local principal. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-18.

At the conclusion of all other grades, an “annual report of a child’s progress” must be submitted to the local principal. This report may comprise one of the following:

1. a score on “a nationally-normed standardized achievement test which demonstrates grade level achievement appropriate to a child’s age”
2. “progress on a nationally-normed standardized achievement test that is equivalent to one grade level per calendar year, even if the overall achievement falls short of grade level standards”
3. “a written evaluation by a person certified to teach in the State of Hawaii that the child demonstrates appropriate grade level achievement or significant annual advancement commensurate with a child’s abilities”

4. “a written evaluation by the parent which shall include (A) A description of the child’s progress in each subject area included in the child’s curriculum; (B) Representative samples of the child’s work; and (C) Representative tests and assignments including grades for courses if grades are given.” Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-18(b)
5. the results of Hawaii’s Statewide Testing Program if a parent chooses “to have the child participate in the school’s testing program” for grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-18(c)

For Option 2: In grades identified in the Statewide Testing Program (3-8, and 11), a child is required to participate in the testing program at the local school. If parents elect to arrange for private testing at their own expense, they must inform the school principal of this in advance. Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-9.

At the end of each school year, parents must submit the following to the principal:

1. “a narrative progress report and report card from the professional staff or tutor of a child’s alternative educational program . . . more frequent progress reports may be requested by the principal.”
2. “the narrative report shall include statements of progress in each of the subject areas as well as development in social awareness and understanding of self, understanding of the problems of the society and the culture, and independence in learning. Copies of tests or assignments, if available, shall be attached to the narrative report. Grades for courses shall be submitted. The principal shall judge the adequacy of progress of a child. If progress is not satisfactory, the principal shall meet with the parent to discuss the problems and establish a plan for improvement.” Haw. Admin. R. § 8-12-9