

JAN 21 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that dyslexia is a
2 learning disability with neurobiological origins that is
3 characterized by poor spelling and decoding abilities and that
4 affects approximately fifteen to twenty per cent of Americans.
5 The legislature further finds that students with dyslexia may
6 experience difficulties in skills such as reading, spelling,
7 writing, and speaking and may be mistakenly labeled as lazy,
8 incompetent, or unintelligent. The legislature finds that
9 improved awareness and identification of dyslexia and better
10 training for faculty and staff responsible for identifying and
11 treating students with dyslexia will help students with dyslexia
12 obtain the encouragement, training, and treatment they need to
13 succeed in school.

14 The purpose of this Act is to support students with
15 dyslexia by:

16 (1) Making technical assistance and training available by
17 the 2010-2011 school year to educators, education
18 officials, and employees providing instruction or



1 special services for the education, therapy, and
2 training of exceptional children; and
3 (2) Requiring the department of education to coordinate
4 technical assistance and training efforts with teacher
5 preparation programs at institutions of higher
6 education in the State.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Technical assistance and training relating to
11 students with dyslexia. (a) Beginning with the 2010-2011
12 school year, the department shall make available technical
13 assistance and training to teachers, educational officers and
14 employees providing instruction or special services for the
15 education, therapy, and training of exceptional children that
16 shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 17 (1) Awareness of dyslexia;
- 18 (2) Assessment and identification of dyslexia;
- 19 (3) Remedial curricula for general and special education
20 students with dyslexia;
- 21 (4) Progress monitoring of students with dyslexia that
22 provides students, parents, teachers, and



1 administrators with data on student performance and
2 improvements, and uses this data in evaluations and in
3 designing instructional changes; and

4 (5) Interventions to address the needs of students with
5 dyslexia that are based on scientific evidence and
6 data.

7 (b) The department shall coordinate technical assistance
8 and training efforts with teacher preparation programs at the
9 University of Hawaii and other institutions of higher education
10 in the State.

11 (c) The provision of any technical assistance and training
12 pursuant to this section shall not preclude the department from
13 using federal funds to implement the technical assistance and
14 training. The availability of federal funds shall be construed
15 as a proportionate reduction of state costs whenever possible.

16 For purposes of this section, "students with dyslexia"
17 means students that the department has determined to be dyslexic
18 through evaluations described in the department's administrative
19 rules, pursuant to section 302A-1112."

20 SECTION 3. The department of education shall submit a
21 report to the legislature on the activities and status of any
22 technical assistance and training made available pursuant to



1 this Act. The department shall submit its report, including any
2 proposed legislation and budget requests, to the legislature no
3 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
4 session of 2011.

5 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7

INTRODUCED BY:

Norman Sakamoto



Report Title:

DOE Technical Assistance and Training; Dyslexia

Description:

Requires DOE to make technical assistance and training to support students with dyslexia available to teachers, educational officers, and employees providing instruction or special services for exceptional children. Requires DOE to coordinate technical assistance and training efforts with teacher preparation programs in institutions of higher learning in the State.

