

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that recent neuroscience
2 research demonstrates that a child's early years are the most
3 crucial in the child's cognitive, emotional, social, and
4 physical development.

5 The legislature further finds that early screening of
6 hearing- and vision-related medical problems improves children's
7 outcomes and has a critical influence on school success and
8 family functioning. As not all children have access to quality
9 primary health care, it is in the State's interest to provide
10 screening and assessment that will detect hearing and vision
11 deficiencies to identify children who are in need of further
12 evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment. Early identification and
13 treatment can prevent or at least alleviate many of the problems
14 that result from impaired hearing or vision.

15 The department of health currently provides various
16 community health screening services. The purpose of this Act is
17 to appropriate moneys to provide screening for hearing and



1 vision related conditions throughout childhood and into the
2 teenage years.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 for
6 the screening program mandated under section 321-101, Hawaii
7 Revised Statutes.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 health for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 3. The department of health shall partner with the
11 department of education, and community service organizations,
12 which may include the International Association of Lions Clubs,
13 and Rotary Clubs, in order to carry out the hearing and vision
14 screening required under this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

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Report Title:

Hearing and Vision Screening; Children; Teenagers; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for hearing and vision screening programs.

