
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that chronic absenteeism,
2 poor health, and delayed or limited access to health care and
3 preventive health services continue to hinder students' academic
4 success and schools' abilities to meet the needs of the whole
5 child. The legislature also recognizes that school based health
6 programs support the department of education in achieving
7 student, school, and system success by providing school health
8 services to public school children in complex areas across the
9 State.

10 The legislature further finds that the department of
11 education works with other state agencies, partnering health
12 care and education organizations and interest groups, and
13 families to improve attendance, behavior, and course marks.
14 These improvements are achieved by partnerships to improve
15 access to and coordinate wrap-around services and address non-
16 school factors that impede student success.



1 Furthermore, the legislature acknowledges that vision, oral
2 health, and behavioral health services are in high demand for
3 school-aged children. The legislature recognizes that Hawaii
4 has the highest prevalence of tooth decay in third grade
5 children with seventy-one per cent of children affected, which
6 is well beyond the national average of fifty-two per cent. Of
7 high school children, twenty-nine per cent have not visited the
8 dentist in the past twelve months. Additionally, more than
9 sixty per cent of children in this State lack protective dental
10 sealants which are cost effective means to prevent tooth decay.
11 Similarly, approximately one in five children will naturally
12 need glasses to participate fully in school, yet thirty-five per
13 cent of children have never seen an eye care professional.

14 Moreover, the legislature recognizes that one out of seven
15 children ages two years old to eight years old are diagnosed
16 with a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder and that
17 between five per cent to nine per cent of children ages five
18 years old to seventeen years old have a serious emotional
19 disturbance. The legislature notes that a significant gap in
20 the current Hawaii health care system is effective awareness,



1 diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health conditions at all
2 levels, including for school-aged children.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a position within
4 the department of education to:

5 (1) Elevate the coordination of school based health
6 services within the department of education; and

7 (2) Facilitate the establishment of evidence-based oral,
8 vision, and behavioral health screening and assessment
9 programs within the department of education to address
10 and improve the current health and academic outcomes
11 for Hawaii's school-aged children.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for one
15 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) school health services
16 coordinator position within the department of education.

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop



1 an evidence-based vision screening and eye assessment system for
2 children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

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

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop
8 an evidence-based oral screening and assessment system for
9 children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

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

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop
15 an evidence-based behavioral health screening and assessment
16 system for children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

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

19 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

School-Based Health; School Health Coordinator; Department of Education; Vision Screening and Assessment; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a position to increase school-health coordination in the Department of Education. Establishes evidence-based screenings and assessment for school vision, oral health, and behavioral health. Effective 7/1/3000. (HB2185 HD2)

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