
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes the impact of mental
2 health on student learning and academic achievement. The
3 legislature also recognizes that educators are often the first
4 to notice mental health problems in students. As educational
5 leaders over the State's fifteen complex areas, complex area
6 superintendents have extensive responsibilities over department
7 of education schools, which enrolled approximately 168,000
8 public school students for the 2018-2019 school year.
9 Educational leaders have a critical role in identifying
10 potential mental health problems in schools, supporting students
11 and their mental health, and improving the outcomes of mental
12 health challenges in education for student success.

13 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of
14 education to provide training on students' mental health issues
15 on an annual basis to complex area superintendents, registered
16 school nurses, and school health aides to support the mental
17 health of students and better support these professionals in



1 meeting the educational needs of students with autism, fetal
2 alcohol spectrum disorders, and other mental health problems.

3 SECTION 2. This Act shall be known and may be cited as
4 "Akayla-Jeremiah-Vanna's Law".

5 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 "§302A- Mental health training. (a) To meet the
9 educational needs of students with mental health problems, the
10 department, at its own expense, may develop and coordinate
11 mental health training, including any materials necessary to
12 implement the training, to be offered annually to complex area
13 superintendents, registered school nurses, and school health
14 aides.

15 (b) Any mental health training under this section shall
16 include training on autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.
17 Complex area superintendents, registered school nurses, and
18 school health aides may complete on an annual basis:

19 (1) Two hours of training on:

20 (A) The causes, symptoms, and key warning signs of
21 students' mental health problems;



1 (B) Effective approaches for dealing with student
2 behaviors; and

3 (C) The cultural considerations of students; and

4 (2) One hour of training on mental health issues and
5 treatment of students.

6 (c) Any training under this section shall be conducted pro
7 bono by licensed physicians, psychologists, or mental health
8 counselors, certified paraprofessionals, or any other certified
9 trainers approved by the department."

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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H.B. NO. 379

Report Title:

Mental Health Training; Complex Area Superintendents; School Nurses; School Health Aides; Akayla-Jeremiah-Vanna's Law; Autism; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Education, at its own expense, to develop and coordinate mental health training to be offered annually to complex area superintendents, registered school nurses, and school health aides. Includes autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training.

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