

JAN 18 2019

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# 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 across the State.

9           The legislature acknowledges that vision services are in  
10 high demand for school-aged children. In Hawaii, one in four  
11 children will need glasses to participate fully in school, yet  
12 thirty-five per cent of children have never seen an eye care  
13 professional. In 1989, vision screening was mandated for  
14 certain age groups in department of education schools; however,  
15 the department of health program was defunded in 1997. Since  
16 then, there have not been consistent recommendations for vision  
17 screening best practice methodology and follow-up. It has



1 become clear that this has led to a fragmented system and  
2 further support and guidance is necessary to ensure best  
3 practice methods of vision screening are achieved.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
5 department of education to develop an evidence-based vision  
6 screening and eye assessment system to achieve sustainable and  
7 comprehensive academic improvements and health outcomes for  
8 Hawaii's public school students.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
13 2020-2021 to develop an evidence-based vision screening and eye  
14 assessment system for children in pre-kindergarten through grade  
15 twelve.

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

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY: Rosalyn H. Birk  
Michelle Tidani



# S.B. NO. 820

**Report Title:**

Department of Education; School Based Health; Vision Screening;  
Eye Assessment; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to develop an evidence-based vision screening and eye assessment system for children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

