

JAN 19 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in recent years,
2 several disturbing incidents have occurred relating to school
3 safety. In March 2018 at Kipapa elementary school, a boy
4 reported that a man approached him in a school restroom and
5 tried to grab his hand. On December 12, 2019, a police manhunt
6 in Waipahu prompted officials at Waipahu high school and August
7 Ahrens elementary school to place those schools on lockdown. On
8 February 27, 2020, following a report of a man armed with a gun
9 in Ewa Beach, Ilima intermediate school, Pohakea elementary
10 school, Kaimiloa elementary school, and Campbell high school
11 initiated a lockdown.

12 The legislature finds that elementary school students often
13 lack the capacity to properly assess and identify the potential
14 dangers posed by the presence of individuals who are not
15 authorized to be present on a school's campus. Accordingly, to
16 ensure that those children can learn in safe environments, the



1 State must take action to deter the presence of unauthorized
2 individuals from those environments.

3 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the protection of
4 young children by assigning dedicated security personnel to
5 serve at public elementary schools and public facilities that
6 provide prekindergarten care.

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

10 "§302A- School safety; school resource officers;
11 guards. (a) The department shall assign school resource
12 officers or guards registered pursuant to chapter 463 to serve
13 at each public elementary school and state prekindergarten
14 program during hours when students are expected to be on the
15 school campus. In determining the number of officers or guards
16 that shall be assigned to each public elementary school or state
17 prekindergarten program, the department shall consider:

- 18 (1) The size of the school campus;
19 (2) The number of students in the school or program; and
20 (3) Other factors relevant to student safety.



1 (b) The department shall seek federal grants to the extent
 2 necessary for the costs relating to the hiring of school
 3 resource officers and registered guards."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
 7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 8 year 2024-2025 for the provision of school resource officers and
 9 guards at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten
 10 programs.

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

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

15
 INTRODUCED BY: *Kurt Furbel*



S.B. NO. 243

Report Title:

DOE; Schools; Children; Resource Officers; Guards; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to assign school resource officers or guards to serve at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten programs. Requires the Department of Education to seek funding from federal grants. 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.

