

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii keiki:
2 healthy and ready to learn program is designed to improve access
3 to, and the quality of, school-based health services available
4 to Hawaii's public school students by providing direct services
5 and coordinating care with primary and tertiary care providers.
6 Further, the program screens, identifies, and meets needs, such
7 as oral and mental health services, by seeking and obtaining
8 private funds. The Hawaii keiki: healthy and ready to learn
9 program partnership with the Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of
10 nursing at the University of Hawaii at Manoa supports the
11 department of education in achieving student, school, and system
12 success by providing school health nursing services to public
13 schools, allowing department of education staff to focus on
14 their mission to educate Hawaii's children.

15 In the last three years, the Hawaii keiki: healthy and
16 ready to learn program has provided direct on-site services in
17 over one hundred seventy-one schools and indirect support to all



1 department of education schools, complexes, and complex areas.
2 To have a presence in one hundred seventy-one elementary,
3 middle, and high schools, the Hawaii keiki: healthy and ready
4 to learn program placed fifteen advanced practice registered
5 nurses in each complex area; forty-two registered nurses in each
6 complex area; and school health support staff in one hundred
7 seventy-one schools. The school health support staff comprise
8 of community health workers, medical assistants, and certified
9 nurse assistants. Under the supervision of registered nurses,
10 school health support staff ensure the conduct of on-site school
11 telehealth visits, implement nursing orders, facilitate health
12 screening efforts, and provide health support to the campus.
13 The legislature envisions a future with one nurse on site
14 at every school but recognizes achieving that goal requires a
15 substantial increase in fiscal and human resources. The school
16 health support staff personnel are an efficient cost-effective
17 approach to increasing access to the available nursing services
18 assisting the department of education to meet the goal of
19 student and school academic success by ensuring students are
20 healthy and ready to learn. During the fall 2022 semester,
21 school health support staff accounted for 49,627 health room



1 visit and entered immunization data for 31,220 students and
2 documentation of 6,477 students with serious health conditions
3 into school records. School health support staff assisted with
4 management of 5,779 new coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
5 cases and facilitated the administration of 3,403 COVID-19 tests
6 through coordination with department of health testing
7 initiatives. As a result of school health support staff
8 efforts, sixty-four per cent of students seen in the health room
9 returned to class. With school health support staff, school
10 attendance and seat time improves as more students have their
11 health needs addressed at school.

12 The school health support staff were initially created to
13 support the department of education's administrative
14 requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. The
15 legislature recognizes COVID-19 exacerbated and illuminated
16 ongoing, underlying social and emergency response issues that
17 need to be addressed, including the preparedness of every school
18 to quickly identify and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
19 The volume of care provided by school health support staff shows
20 a significant, ongoing need.



1 The legislature commends the development of school health
2 support staff and commits to the ongoing support of children
3 enrolled in department of education schools by ensuring students
4 are healthy and ready to learn.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
6 to the department of education to fund school health support
7 staff to continue a critical role and function of the Hawaii
8 keiki: healthy and ready to learn program.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2024-2025 for the funding of school health support staff
14 within the department of education.

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

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

18

INTRODUCED BY:  _____



S.B. NO. 943

Report Title:

School Health Support Staff; Department of Education; Hawaii
Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to fund school health support staff to sustain the Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program.

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

