

ACT 246

A Bill for an Act Relating to Sight Conservation and Prevention of
Blindness.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The vision screening activities of the department of

social services are hereby transferred to the departments of health and education.

SECTION 2. The transfer of function provided in Section 1 above is a transfer resulting from the provisions of the Hawaii State Government Reorganization Act of 1959 and as such, all provisions pertaining to such transfers are made a part of this Act.

SECTION 3. Section 109-7, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. Section 109-11, Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 109-11. Donations and examinations for sight conservation.

"(a) Donations. The department of social services in its sight conservation program may accept and expend or distribute donations, eye glasses and other services for sight conservation and for assistance to blind and visually handicapped persons; provided, that any donations of money so received shall be deposited in the State treasury and disbursed therefrom for such purposes pursuant to this part.

"(b) Cause and prevention of blindness, examinations. The department of social services, in consultation and cooperation with the department of health, shall make investigation of the causes of blindness, learn what proportion of the cases are preventible and inaugurate and cooperate in any such preventive measures as may seem advisable for the State. They, or either of them, may arrange for the examination of the eyes of the individual blind or visually handicapped persons and may provide or secure medical and surgical treatment of such persons whenever, in its judgment, the sight of such persons may be benefited thereby."

SECTION 5. Chapter 46 of the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955, as amended, is further amended by adding a new part and a new section to be numbered and to read as follows:

"PART . VISION SCREENING AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

"Section 46- . Sight conservation and prevention of blindness.

"(a) The departments of health and education shall cooperate with each other and other public and private authorities as they may deem advisable for the education of children in the conservation of eyesight and the prevention of blindness, and may recommend for sight-saving classes, or for the State school for the blind, children certified by any reputable oculist or optometrist, as fit subjects for instruction therein. All such certifications shall be reviewed by a medical doctor designated by the department of health.

"(b) They shall conduct or supervise such vision-testing activities in public and private schools as they deem advisable to determine which children have defective vision and shall make recommendations

for the conservation or correction of their vision, and shall cooperate to secure proper lighting and in such other measures as they may deem advisable to remedy conditions which may be conducive to or cause weakening of eyesight.

“(c) They shall cause to be conducted classes and lectures in sight conservation and prevention of blindness for teachers and public health nurses and others engaged in like work, and cooperate with public and private organizations and societies in an effort to educate the public in the importance of sight conservation.”

SECTION 6. Upon passage of this Act, the governor is authorized to transfer such personnel and funds between departments as he deems necessary for the implementation hereof. He is further authorized to redistribute or assign specific functions in connection herewith to that department he deems most suitable.

SECTION 7. All laws or parts of laws heretofore enacted which are in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended to conform herewith. All acts passed during this general session of 1965, whether enacted before or after the passage of this Act, shall be amended to conform to this Act, unless such acts specifically provide that this Act is being amended. The revisor of statutes is hereby authorized to make all such changes required in the Revised Laws of Hawaii 1955 in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
(Approved July 9, 1965.) **S.B. 375.**