
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that special education
2 services, including academic, speech-language, psychological,
3 physical and occupational, and counseling accommodations, meet
4 the unique needs of students with disabilities. Governed by
5 federal and state regulations, special education services are
6 available to eligible students ages three to twenty-two who
7 demonstrate a need for specially designed instruction.

8 The legislature further finds that based on statewide
9 assessments, most of the State's public school students with
10 individualized education programs are performing below grade
11 level in reading and mathematics. In the 2013-2014 academic
12 year, only twenty-two per cent were proficient in reading and
13 fifteen per cent were proficient in math. Moreover, between the
14 2004-2005 and 2013-2014 academic years, the achievement gap
15 between special education students and general education
16 students increased to 48.2 per cent in reading and 48.8 per cent



1 in math, an approximate ten per cent change in reading and
2 twenty-seven per cent change in math.

3 The legislature additionally finds that a decrease in the
4 workload of special education teachers and additional funding
5 for classroom materials will increase learning growth and
6 improve achievement results for special education students. The
7 purpose of this Act is to provide support for special education
8 teachers and students by providing special education teachers
9 with additional preparation time and funds for instructional
10 materials.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§302A- Special education; preparation hours;
15 instructional materials and equipment. (a) In addition to
16 planning time and preparation periods specified in any
17 collectively bargained agreement negotiated for bargaining unit
18 (5), special education teachers shall have at least forty hours
19 per year to use, at the discretion of the teacher, for the
20 completion of individualized education programs.



1 (b) Special education teachers shall not be required to
2 interact with students when using additional preparation time
3 pursuant to this section.

4 (c) Special education teachers shall receive a
5 reimbursement of up to \$1,690 annually to purchase, at their
6 discretion, instructional materials and equipment that support
7 special education student learning."

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to
11 provide each special education teacher with a reimbursement of
12 up to \$1,690 for instructional materials and equipment to
13 support special education student learning.

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

16 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

18

INTRODUCED BY:

John M. Burns
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

H.B. NO. 2537

Report Title:

Department of Education; Special Education; Appropriation

Description:

Provides special education teachers with additional preparation time and funds for instructional materials. Makes appropriation.

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

