
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 in complex areas across the
9 State.

10 The legislature further finds that the department of
11 education works with other state agencies, partnering health
12 care and education organizations and interest groups, and
13 families to improve attendance, behavior, and course marks.
14 These improvements are achieved by partnerships to improve
15 access to and coordinate wrap-around services and address non-
16 school factors that impede student success.



1 The legislature further recognizes that through school
2 based health and community partnerships, the departments of
3 health and human services have identified the extent of services
4 provided within each department that are targeted to public
5 school children and the need to coordinate internal departmental
6 activity and cross-departmental efforts to develop sustainable
7 school based health services.

8 Furthermore, the legislature acknowledges that vision, oral
9 health, and behavioral health services are in high demand for
10 school-aged children. The legislature recognizes that Hawaii
11 has the highest prevalence of tooth decay in third grade
12 children with seventy-one per cent of children affected, which
13 is well beyond the national average of fifty-two per cent. Of
14 high school children, twenty-nine per cent have not visited the
15 dentist in the past twelve months. Additionally, more than
16 sixty per cent of children in this State lack protective dental
17 sealants which are cost effective means to prevent tooth decay.
18 Similarly, approximately one in five children will naturally
19 need glasses to participate fully in school, yet thirty-five per
20 cent of children have never seen an eye care professional.



1 Moreover, the legislature recognizes that one out of seven
2 children ages two years old to eight years old are diagnosed
3 with a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder and that
4 between five per cent to nine per cent of children ages five
5 years old to seventeen years old have a serious emotional
6 disturbance. The legislature notes that a significant gap in
7 the current Hawaii health care system is effective awareness,
8 diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral health conditions at all
9 levels, including for school-aged children.

10 The legislature acknowledges that school based health
11 programs and services are an effective means to continue
12 collaboration among health, human services, and education
13 policymakers and health care providers to achieve sustainable,
14 achievable, and comprehensive improvements to the environments
15 in which community members learn, live, work, and play, and
16 improve academic and health outcomes of Hawaii's public school
17 students.

18 The purpose of this Act is to establish positions within
19 the department of education, department of health, and
20 department of human services to:



- 1 (1) Elevate the coordination of school based health
- 2 services within and among the departments; and
- 3 (2) Facilitate the establishment of evidence-based oral,
- 4 vision, and behavioral health screening and assessment
- 5 programs within the department of education to address
- 6 and improve the current health and academic outcomes
- 7 for Hawaii's school-aged children.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for one
11 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) school health services
12 coordinator position within the department of education.

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

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for one
18 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) school health services
19 coordinator position within the department of health.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for one
 4 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) school health services
 5 coordinator position within the department of human services.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 7 human services for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
 10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop
 11 an evidence-based vision screening and eye assessment system for
 12 children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

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

15 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop
 18 an evidence-based oral screening and assessment system for
 19 children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

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



1 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop
4 an evidence-based behavioral health screening and assessment
5 system for children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve.

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

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

School-Based Health; School Health Coordinator; Department of Education; Department of Health; Department of Human Services; Vision Screening and Assessment; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for positions to increase school-health coordination for and among the Department of Education, Department of Health, and Department of Human Services. Establishes evidence-based screenings and assessment for school vision, oral health, and behavioral health. Effective 7/1/2025. (HB2185 HD1)

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