A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL BASED HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that chronic absenteeism, poor health, and delayed or limited access to health care and preventive health services continue to hinder students' academic success and schools' abilities to meet the needs of the whole child. The legislature also recognizes that school based health programs support the department of education in achieving student, school, and system success by providing school health services to public school children across the State.

The legislature acknowledges that vision services are in high demand for school-aged children. In Hawaii, one in four children will need glasses to participate fully in school, yet thirty-five per cent of children have never seen an eye care professional. In 1989, vision screening was mandated for certain age groups in department of education schools; however, the department of health program was defunded in 1997. Since then, there have not been consistent recommendations for vision screening best practice methodology and follow-up. It has
become clear that this has led to a fragmented system and
further support and guidance is necessary to ensure best
practice methods of vision screening are achieved.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
department of education to develop an evidence-based vision
screening and eye assessment system to achieve sustainable and
comprehensive academic improvements and health outcomes for
Hawaii's public school students.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $500,000 or so much
thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
2020-2021 to develop an evidence-based vision screening and eye
assessment system for children in pre-kindergarten through grade
twelve.

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

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.
Report Title:
Department of Education; School Based Health; Vision Screening; Eye Assessment; Appropriation

Description:
Requires the department of education to develop an evidence-based vision screening and eye assessment system for children in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. Appropriates funds.

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