

MAR 8 - 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF A CONSOLIDATED, CONSISTENT VISION SCREENING PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, chronic absenteeism, poor health, and delayed or
2 limited access to health care and preventive health services
3 continue to hinder students' academic success and schools'
4 ability to meet the needs of the whole child; and
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6 WHEREAS, school based health programs support the
7 Department of Education in achieving student, school, and system
8 success by providing school health services to public school
9 children in complex areas across the State; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Education works with other state
12 agencies, partnering health care and education organizations and
13 interest groups, and families to improve attendance, behavior,
14 and course marks; and
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16 WHEREAS, these improvements are achieved by a network of
17 school-community partnerships to improve access to and
18 coordinate wrap-around services and address non-school factors
19 that impede student success; and
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21 WHEREAS, through school based health and community
22 partnerships, the Departments of Health and Human Services have
23 identified the extent of services provided within each
24 department that are targeted to public school children and the
25 need to coordinate internal departmental activity and cross-
26 departmental efforts to develop sustainable school based health
27 services; and
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29 WHEREAS, vision services are in high demand for school-aged
30 children; and
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1 WHEREAS, approximately one in five children will naturally
2 need glasses to participate fully in school, yet thirty-five
3 percent of children have never seen an eye care professional;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, in 1989, vision screening was mandated for certain
7 age groups in Department of Education schools; and

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9 WHEREAS, however, since the Department of Health program
10 for vision screening was defunded in 1997, there have not been
11 consistent recommendations for best practice methodology and
12 follow-up; and

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14 WHEREAS, it has become clear that further support and
15 guidance is necessary to ensure best practice methods of vision
16 screening; and

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18 WHEREAS, the school based health programs and services
19 provided to public school children through a network of school-
20 community partnerships lends an effective means to continue
21 collaboration between health, human services, and education
22 policymakers and health care providers to achieve sustainable,
23 achievable, and comprehensive improvements to the environments
24 in which community members learn, live, work, and play, so that
25 academic and health outcomes of Hawaii's public school students
26 can be achieved; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
29 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
30 Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department
31 of Education, and Department of the Attorney General are
32 requested to convene an interdepartmental working group to
33 address the lack of a consolidated, consistent vision screening
34 program in public schools for children in the State; and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group include the
37 following:

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39 (1) A representative from the Department of Health;
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41 (2) A representative from the Department of Human
42 Services;



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- (3) A representative from the Department of Education;
- (4) A representative from the Department of the Attorney General;
- (5) A representative from Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn;
- (6) A representative from the Hawaii Primary Care Association;
- (7) A representative from Project Vision Hawaii;
- (8) A representative from the District 50 Hawaii Lions;
- (9) A representative from the Rotary International District 5000; and
- (10) Health care provider representatives, including but not limited to pediatricians, primary care physicians, eye care professionals, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and opticians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Department of Education are requested to enlist the assistance of the Department of the Attorney General in identifying barriers to consolidated, consistent vision screening in public schools, and proposing amendments to remove barriers in their respective statutes and administrative rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit their findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than December 15, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a final report of the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed



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1 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of the
6 Legislative Reference Bureau, Director of Health, Director of
7 Human Services, Superintendent of Education, Attorney General,
8 Executive Director of Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn,
9 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Primary Care Association,
10 Executive Director of Project Vision Hawaii, District Governor
11 of the District 50 Hawaii Lions, and District Governor of the
12 Rotary International District 5000.
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