

JAN 26 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more than
2 twenty-five per cent of the State's third grade students read
3 below their grade level. More specifically, because
4 approximately fifty thousand public school students in the State
5 are enrolled in kindergarten through third grade, approximately
6 twelve thousand five hundred students are literacy challenged in
7 those grades alone. The legislature also finds that the
8 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and distance
9 learning have exacerbated adverse impacts on the State's most
10 at-risk students.

11 The legislature further finds that primary promise is a
12 program that aims to close the achievement gap in literacy among
13 students enrolled in kindergarten through third grade by
14 providing supplemental, intensive instruction by primary promise
15 intervention teachers and literacy instructional aides in small
16 groups of three-to-five students. The legislature further finds
17 that primary promise is a literacy enhancement initiative that



1 has shown tremendous success across two hundred six severely
2 impacted schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

3 The legislature also finds that there is currently a unique
4 opportunity due to federal funding allocated to address the
5 impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including moneys from the:

6 (1) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)
7 Act;

8 (2) CARES Act Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)
9 Fund;

10 (3) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief
11 (ESSER) Fund;

12 (4) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental
13 Appropriations (CRRSA) Act; and

14 (5) American Rescue Plan (CRA) Act (ESSER III).

15 With this historic infusion of federal funds available to the
16 State, the legislature believes this is the perfect time to
17 launch primary promise in Hawaii's elementary schools to close
18 the literacy gap for Hawaii's keiki.

19 The legislature further finds that an appropriation of
20 \$15,000,000 would allow schools to hire one hundred fifty
21 primary promise intervention teachers and eighty literacy



1 instructional aides, who could help to close the literacy gap
2 for approximately nine thousand at-risk students.

3 The purpose of this Act is to establish a three-year
4 primary promise pilot program within the department of
5 education.

6 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall
7 establish and operate a primary promise pilot program, which
8 shall work toward the goal of ensuring that each student leaves
9 third grade reading at grade level.

10 (b) The department of education shall assess all public
11 elementary schools in the State and identify the schools having:

- 12 (1) The lowest literacy rates; or
13 (2) A disproportionate number of students reading below
14 grade level.

15 (c) In each school identified in subsection (b), the
16 department of education shall:

- 17 (1) Determine the number of students enrolled in
18 kindergarten through third grade who are
19 literacy-challenged; and
20 (2) Hire:



1 (A) One primary promise intervention teacher for
2 every sixty literacy-challenged students; and

3 (B) One primary promise instructional aide for
4 literacy for every one hundred twenty
5 literacy-challenged students;

6 (3) Assign primary promise intervention teachers and
7 primary promise instructional aides for literacy to
8 students who are literacy-challenged; provided that,
9 to the extent practicable, the department shall assign
10 teachers and instructional aides to assist students in
11 small groups of three to five students; and

12 (4) Regularly analyze the progress of students
13 participating in the program in improving their
14 literacy skills through progress monitoring
15 assessments, and make adjustments to instruction plans
16 as necessary based on those analyses and assessments.

17 (d) The department of education shall submit an annual
18 report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature no
19 later than January 1 of each year, which shall include:

20 (1) A school-by-school assessment of educational outcomes
21 of the pilot program;



1 (2) A recommendation as to whether the program should be
2 made permanent, with or without modifications; and

3 (3) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
4 proposed legislation.

5 (e) As used in this section:

6 "Literacy-challenged student" means a student enrolled in
7 kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade who is
8 reading below grade level.

9 "Primary promise instructional aide for literacy" or
10 "literacy instructional aide" means a person who is hired by the
11 department of education to:

12 (1) Focus on direct instruction of students in small
13 groups of three to five students; and

14 (2) Support primary promise intervention teachers in
15 monitoring student progress.

16 "Primary promise intervention teacher" means a person who
17 is hired by the department of education to:

18 (1) Provide direct instruction to students in small groups
19 of three to five students;



S.B. NO. 3266

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2025.

3

INTRODUCED BY: *James Mercado Kim*



S.B. NO. 3266

Report Title:

Education; DOE; Literacy; Primary Promise; Pilot Program;
Teachers; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a primary promise pilot program within the Department of Education. Requires the Department to identify elementary schools having low literacy rates or a disproportionate number of students reading below grade level. Appropriates moneys to hire teachers and instructional aides to provide instruction to students in grades K-3 who read below grade level in those identified schools. Sunsets 6/30/2025.

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

