
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii keiki:
2 healthy and ready to learn program (Hawaii keiki program) is
3 designed to improve access to quality school-based health
4 services for Hawaii's public school students by providing direct
5 services and coordinating care with primary and tertiary care
6 providers. Further, the Hawaii keiki program screens,
7 identifies, and meets needs, such as for oral and mental health
8 services, by seeking and obtaining private funds as needed.
9 This partnership program with the university of Hawaii at Manoa
10 Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of nursing supports the department
11 of education in achieving student, school, and system success by
12 providing health nursing services to public schools, thus
13 allowing school and department staff to focus on their mission
14 to educate the State's children.

15 In the last three years, the Hawaii keiki program has
16 provided direct on-site services in over one hundred seventy-one
17 schools, and indirect support to all department of education



1 schools, complexes, and complex areas. Critical to the
2 expansion of services are health technicians who are community
3 health workers, medical assistants, and certified nurse
4 assistants. Under the supervision of the registered nurses,
5 health technicians support on-site health room visits; implement
6 nursing orders; facilitate virtual nursing visits; facilitate
7 health screening efforts; support staff, parent, and student
8 health education; and provide health support to the campus.

9 The legislature finds that health technicians have
10 significantly increased the capacity of the registered nurses
11 and advanced practice registered nurses to complete high-level
12 nursing tasks. Hawaii keiki program visits increased from 8,188
13 in school year 2019-2020 to 126,994 in school year 2022-2023, an
14 increase of 1,451 per cent, due to services provided by health
15 technicians. In addition, the legislature finds that student
16 and staff education encounters increased from 3,911 to 17,339,
17 an increase of three hundred forty-three per cent; keiki health
18 screenings increased from 3,962 to 11,027, an increase of one
19 hundred seventy-eight per cent; and support for individual
20 student health care plans, such as plans pursuant to section 504
21 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1993 individualized education



1 programs, increased from two hundred to five hundred twenty-
2 five, an increase of one hundred sixty-three per cent. The
3 legislature notes that with regard to output of Hawaii keiki
4 services, health technicians increase productivity by up to
5 sixty per cent compared to nursing care alone. Health
6 technicians are critical team members of the Hawaii keiki
7 program and enable more students to receive the screenings,
8 care, and health plans needed to support their optimal learning
9 environments and maintain their health while at school.

10 The legislature further recognizes that the unique
11 partnership of the Hawaii keiki program between department of
12 education public schools and the university of Hawaii at Manoa
13 Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of nursing enhances support to
14 school staff and increases health services to children.
15 Notably, with the addition of health technicians, school health
16 assistants have seen visits increase from 40,941 to 279,475, an
17 increase of five hundred eighty-three per cent, and an increase
18 of school health assistant utilization of electronic records by
19 22.4 per cent.

20 The legislature envisions a future with one nurse on site
21 at every school but recognizes that achieving that goal requires



1 a substantial increase in fiscal and human resources. Health
2 technicians are an efficient and cost-effective approach to
3 increasing access to the available nursing services, assisting
4 the department of education to meet the goal of student and
5 school academic success by ensuring students are healthy and
6 ready to learn. The legislature finds that maintaining seventy-
7 five health technician positions throughout the State will
8 maintain the optimized Hawaii keiki environment within
9 department of education schools. Of the seventy-five health
10 technicians, fifty-eight are partnered with registered nurses or
11 advanced practice registered nurses to allow nurses to engage in
12 direct clinical care and maximize the team approach that creates
13 efficiency, increased visits, case management, preventative
14 services, and individual health care plans; and seventeen are
15 distributed to complex areas with challenging geographic spread
16 and high needs.

17 The legislature is committed to providing continued support
18 to children enrolled in department of education schools by
19 ensuring that they are healthy and ready to learn, and commends
20 health technicians in playing a critical function in the Hawaii
21 keiki program, including rapidly responding to high-demand



1 complex area needs and processing data entry for department of
2 education student health records.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
4 funds to maintain seventy-five health technician positions
5 within the department of education for the Hawaii keiki program.

6 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
7 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
8 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
9 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
10 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
11 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
12 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
13 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
14 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
15 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
16 ceiling are that:

- 17 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
18 serve the public interest; and
19 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
20 addressed by this Act.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
4 maintain seventy-five health technician positions within the
5 department of education for the Hawaii keiki: healthy and ready
6 to learn program.

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

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



H.B. NO. 2759
H.D. 1

Report Title:

DOE; Health; Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program;
Health Technicians; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to maintain seventy-five health technician
positions within the Department of Education for the Hawaii
Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program. Effective 7/1/3000.
(HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

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