
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 there are
2 insufficient early detection policies and assessment regulations
3 in Hawaii to address students at risk of having dyslexia.
4 Evidence shows that students who are not identified as
5 struggling before grade three and brought up to proficiency have
6 significantly lower rates of success in the future. To ensure a
7 higher likelihood of success, students need proper intervention
8 methods that are scientifically based. Additionally, Hawaii is
9 one of a small number of states that does not have dyslexia-
10 specific laws related to student support.

11 The purpose of this Act is to support students with
12 dyslexia and other literacy challenges by requiring the
13 department of education to conduct universal screenings for
14 students in kindergarten through third grade to identify those
15 at risk of having dyslexia and other learning disabilities.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302A- Learning disabilities; universal screening. By
5 the 2026-2027 school year, all public schools shall conduct
6 universal screening using screeners approved by the department
7 for students in kindergarten through third grade to identify
8 those at risk of having a specific learning disability, such as
9 dyslexia, so as to provide for identification of and support for
10 these students. This screening process shall include:

- 11 (1) A list of approved qualified dyslexia screening tools
- 12 that address the following components:
 - 13 (A) Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness;
 - 14 (B) Sound symbol recognition;
 - 15 (C) Alphabet knowledge;
 - 16 (D) Decoding skills;
 - 17 (E) Encoding skills; and
 - 18 (F) Rapid naming;
- 19 (2) A process for parents or guardians to provide informed
- 20 consent for use of a qualified dyslexia screening
- 21 tool;



1 (3) A process for parents or guardians to decline dyslexia
2 screening for their child;

3 (4) A process to inform the student's parent or guardian
4 of the screening results and the school's response
5 within thirty school days of the assessment and offer
6 the opportunity for a follow-up discussion;

7 (5) A process for providing the parents or guardians of
8 students identified as having characteristics of
9 dyslexia with information and resource material
10 regarding dyslexia; and

11 (6) A process for schools to evaluate and monitor the
12 student's progress after the identification of
13 characteristics of dyslexia."

14 SECTION 3. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
16 inserted and to read as follows:

17 "Dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is
18 neurological in origin and characterized by difficulties with
19 accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and
20 decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a
21 deficit in the phonological component of language that is often



1 unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the
2 provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary
3 consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and
4 reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of
5 vocabulary and background knowledge.

6 "Phonemic awareness" means the ability to recognize that a
7 spoken word consists of a sequence of individual sounds and the
8 ability to manipulate individual sounds when speaking.

9 "Qualified dyslexia screening tool" means an assessment
10 that measures a student's ability to demonstrate phonological
11 awareness skills, phonemic decoding efficiency skills, sight
12 word reading efficiency skills, rapid automatic naming skills,
13 and accuracy of word reading on grade-level text."

14 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Education; Dyslexia Screening; Literacy

Description:

Requires all public schools to implement universal screenings for students in kindergarten through third grade to identify and support students who are at risk of dyslexia and other learning disabilities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

