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# 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 and quality of school-based health  
4 services available to the State's public school students by  
5 providing direct services and coordinating care with primary and  
6 tertiary care providers. Further, the 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 (HTs) who are  
3 community health workers, medical assistants, and certified  
4 nurse assistants. Under the supervision of the registered  
5 nurses (RNs), HTs 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 HTs have significantly increased  
10 the capacity of the RNs and advanced practice registered nurses  
11 (APRNs) to complete high-level nursing tasks. Hawaii keiki  
12 program visits increased from 8,188 in school year 2019-2020 to  
13 126,994 in school year 2022-2023, an increase of 1,451 per cent,  
14 due to services provided by HTs. In addition, the legislature  
15 finds that student and staff education encounters increased from  
16 3,911 to 17,339, an increase of 343 per cent; keiki health  
17 screenings increased from 3,962 to 11,027, an increase of 178  
18 per cent; and support for individual student health care plans,  
19 such as plans pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act  
20 of 1993 individualized education programs, and employee  
21 assistance program, increased from 200 to 525, an increase of



1 163 per cent. The legislature notes that with regard to output  
2 of Hawaii keiki services, HTs increase productivity by up to 60  
3 per cent compared to nursing care alone. HTs are critical team  
4 members of the Hawaii keiki program and enable more students to  
5 receive the screenings, care, and health plans needed to support  
6 their optimal learning environments and maintain their health  
7 while at school.

8 The legislature further recognizes that the unique  
9 partnership of the Hawaii keiki program between department of  
10 education public schools and the university of Hawaii at Manoa  
11 Nancy Atmospera-Walch school of nursing enhances support to  
12 school staff and increases health services to children.  
13 Notably, with the addition of HTs, School Health Assistants  
14 (SHA) have seen visits increase from 40,941 to 279,475, an  
15 increase of 583 per cent, and an increase of SHA utilization of  
16 electronic records by 22.4 per cent.

17 The legislature envisions a future with one nurse on site  
18 at every school but recognizes achieving that goal requires a  
19 substantial increase in fiscal and human resources. HTs are an  
20 efficient and cost-effective approach to increasing access to  
21 the available nursing services, assisting the department of



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1 education to meet the goal of student and school academic  
2 success by ensuring students are healthy and ready to learn.  
3 The legislature finds that maintaining seventy-five HT positions  
4 throughout the state will maintain the optimized Hawaii Keiki  
5 environment within department of education schools. Of the  
6 seventy-five HTs, fifty-eight are partnered with RNs or APRNs to  
7 allow nurses to engage in direct clinical care and maximize the  
8 team approach that creates efficiency, increased visits, case  
9 management, preventative services, and individual health care  
10 plans; and seventeen are distributed to complex areas with  
11 challenging geographic spread, and high needs that increase  
12 focused and mobile support based on unique complex needs.

13 The legislature is committed to providing continued support  
14 to children enrolled in department of education schools by  
15 ensuring that they are healthy and ready to learn, and commends  
16 the HTs in playing a critical function in the Hawaii keiki  
17 program, including rapidly responding to high-demand complex  
18 area needs and processing data entry for department of education  
19 student health records.



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

4           SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
5 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
7 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
8 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
9 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by

10 \$            or            per cent. This current declaration takes  
11 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
12 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
13 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
14 ceiling are that:

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

19           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,400,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to



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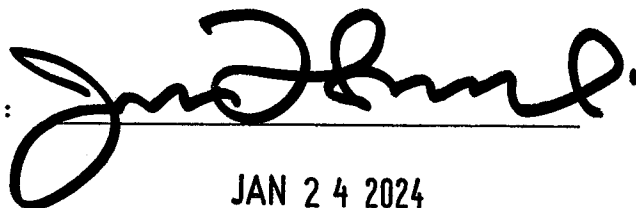
1 maintain seventy-five health technician positions within the  
2 department of education for the Hawaii keiki: healthy and ready  
3 to learn program.

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

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

7

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 24 2024



# H.B. NO. 2759

**Report Title:**

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

**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. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

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

