
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIBRARIES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that schools with a
2 strong school library program and a certified school librarian
3 provide their students with the best chance to succeed. The
4 legislature further finds that more than sixty education and
5 library research studies have produced clear evidence that
6 school library programs staffed by qualified school librarians
7 have a positive impact on students' academic achievement. These
8 studies also clearly demonstrate that strong school library
9 programs help all students do better academically, even when
10 other school variables are considered. The legislature
11 additionally finds that multiple studies over the last two
12 decades have shown that having trained librarians in schools
13 improves students' test scores, increases student participation
14 in libraries, and can contribute to having larger and newer book
15 collections.

16 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Require a qualified school librarian and library
2 resources on the campus of every public school in
3 Hawaii; and

4 (2) Appropriate funds for these purposes.

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

8 "§302A- School librarians; library resources. (a) No
9 later than June 30, 2026, every public school in the State shall
10 have access to a qualified school librarian and library
11 resources on the campus of the school.

12 (b) As used in this section:

13 "Library resources" means any informational resource or
14 material, regardless of format, that includes books,
15 periodicals, audio and video recordings, projected media,
16 closed-format materials, artwork, photographs, micro-materials,
17 toys and games, computer software, and electronic databases.

18 "Qualified librarian" means a certified teacher who also
19 hold a master's degree in library science."

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



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1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
3 year 2024-2025 to provide a qualified librarian and library
4 resources on the campus of every public school in the State.

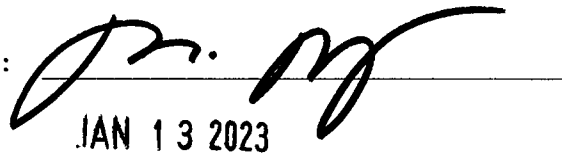
5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
6 of education for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
9 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

10

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 13 2023



H.B. NO. 59

Report Title:

School Librarians; Library Resources; Public Schools;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires a qualified school librarian and library resources on the campus of every public school in Hawaii by 6/30/2026. Appropriates funds.

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