

JAN 17 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. 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- Mental health professionals; minimum required
5 per school. (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each
6 public school in the State, from kindergarten through grade
7 twelve, shall employ, or retain under contract, at least one
8 mental health professional for every two hundred fifty students
9 enrolled in the public school; provided that, if a public school
10 has fewer than two hundred fifty students enrolled, the public
11 school shall employ, or retain under contract, at least one
12 mental health professional.

13 (b) Other state agencies, as appropriate, shall cooperate
14 with the department to implement this section.

15 (c) As used in this section, "mental health professional"
16 means:



- 1 (1) A licensed mental health counselor, as defined in
- 2 section 453D-1;
- 3 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice psychology under
- 4 chapter 465;
- 5 (3) A person employed as a school psychologist pursuant to
- 6 section 465-3(a) (3);
- 7 (4) A social worker, as defined in section 467E-1; or
- 8 (5) A social worker exempt from licensure pursuant to
- 9 section 467E-6(2)."

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
12 and to read as follows:

13 **"§302D- Mental health professionals; minimum required**
14 **per school.** (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each
15 public charter school in the State, from kindergarten through
16 grade twelve, shall employ, or retain under contract, at least
17 one mental health professional for every two hundred fifty
18 students enrolled in the public charter school; provided that,
19 if a public charter school has fewer than two hundred fifty
20 students enrolled, the public charter school shall employ, or
21 retain under contract, at least one mental health professional.



1 (b) Other state agencies, as appropriate, shall cooperate
2 with the department to implement this section.

3 (c) As used in this section, "mental health professional"
4 means:

5 (1) A licensed mental health counselor, as defined in
6 section 453D-1;

7 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice psychology under
8 chapter 465;

9 (3) A person employed as a school psychologist pursuant to
10 section 465-3(a)(3);

11 (4) A social worker, as defined in section 467E-1; or

12 (5) A social worker exempt from licensure pursuant to
13 section 467E-6(2)."

14 SECTION 3. The department shall submit a progress report
15 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
16 convening of the regular session of 2025, detailing the progress
17 made toward meeting the benchmark requiring each public school
18 and public charter school in the State, from kindergarten
19 through grade twelve, to employ, or retain under contract, at
20 least one mental health professional for every two hundred fifty



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1 students enrolled, as established by sections 1 and 2 of this
2 Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
6 establish full-time equivalent (.0 FTE) mental health
7 professional positions within the department of education or
8 otherwise satisfy the requirements established by sections 1 and
9 2 of this Act.

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

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

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

14

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2010

Report Title:

DOE; Public Schools; Public Charter Schools; K-12; Mental Health Professionals; School Counselors; Psychologists; School Psychologists; Social Workers; Report to Legislature; Appropriation

Description:

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, requires each public school and public charter school in the State to employ, or retain under contract, at least one mental health professional for every two hundred fifty students enrolled, subject to certain conditions. Requires the Department of Education to submit a progress report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025. Appropriates funds for the Department of Education to contract for mental health professionals and to establish an unspecified number of full-time equivalent mental health professional positions within the Department of Education.

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

