
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that properly licensed
2 school psychologists provide effective services to help children
3 and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and
4 emotionally by providing direct educational and mental health
5 services, as well as working with parents, educators, and other
6 professionals to create supportive learning and social
7 environments for all children.

8 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is the only state
9 without certification or licensure for school psychologists. A
10 dialogue on how to create a pathway for the licensure of school
11 psychologists is needed to ensure that functioning school
12 psychologists are properly qualified and delivering appropriate
13 services.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a school
15 psychologists working group within the department of education
16 to recommend actionable steps or propose legislation to the



1 legislature on an immediate pathway to licensure for school
2 psychologists in 2026.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
4 of education a school psychologists working group to recommend
5 actionable steps for, or propose legislation on, an immediate
6 pathway to licensure for school psychologists that can be acted
7 upon in 2026.

8 (b) The working group shall consist of:

- 9 (1) The superintendent of education, or the
10 superintendent's designee;
11 (2) The director of commerce and consumer affairs, or the
12 director's designee; and
13 (3) The attorney general, or the attorney general's
14 designee.

15 (c) The working group shall select a chair from among the
16 members listed in subsection (b).

17 (d) The chair shall invite the following individuals to
18 become members of the working group:

- 19 (1) A representative from the Hawaii Association of School
20 Psychologists;



1 (2) A representative from the National Association of
2 School Psychologists; and

3 (3) Any other members, including representatives from
4 state agencies, stakeholders, or advocates, as
5 recommended by a majority of the working group.

6 (e) Members of the working group shall serve without
7 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
8 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

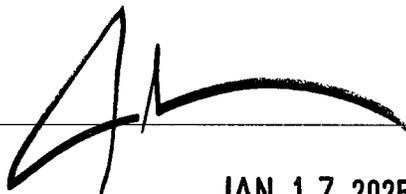
9 (f) The working group shall submit a report of its
10 findings, recommendations, and any proposed legislation to the
11 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
12 the regular session of 2026.

13 (g) The working group shall cease to exist on July 31,
14 2026.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

16

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 624

Report Title:

School Psychologists; Working Group; Department of Education

Description:

Creates a School Psychologists Working Group to recommend actionable steps or propose legislation for an immediate pathway to licensure for school psychologists that can be acted upon in 2026.

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