

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in recent years,
2 several disturbing incidents have occurred relating to school
3 safety. In March 2018, a boy at Kipapa elementary school
4 reported that a man approached him in a school restroom and
5 tried to grab his hand. On December 12, 2019, a police manhunt
6 in Waipahu prompted officials at Waipahu high school and August
7 Ahrens elementary school to place those schools on lockdown. On
8 February 27, 2020, Ilima intermediate school, Pohakea elementary
9 school, Kaimiloa elementary school, and Campbell high school
10 initiated a lockdown after report of an armed man in Ewa Beach.

11 The legislature further finds that young children often
12 lack the capacity to properly assess and identify the potential
13 dangers posed by the presence of individuals who are not
14 authorized to be present on a school or program's campus. The
15 legislature recognizes the importance of safety in elementary
16 schools and state prekindergarten programs to ensure that young
17 children can learn in a safe environment. Accordingly, the



1 State must take action to deter the presence of unauthorized
2 individuals from the premises.

3 The purpose of this Act is to ensure the protection of
4 young children by assigning dedicated security personnel to
5 serve at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten
6 programs by establishing a two-year safety pilot program that
7 assigns school resource officers or guards to serve at public
8 elementary schools and state prekindergarten programs within the
9 Campbell-Kapolei complex area.

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

13 "§302A- School safety; school resource officers;
14 guards. (a) The department shall assign school resource
15 officers or guards registered pursuant to chapter 463 to serve
16 at each public elementary school and state prekindergarten
17 program during hours when students are expected to be on the
18 school campus. In determining the number of officers or guards
19 that shall be assigned to each public elementary school or state
20 prekindergarten program, the department shall consider:

21 (1) The size of the school campus;



1 (2) The number of students in the school or program; and

2 (3) Other factors relevant to student safety.

3 (b) The department shall seek federal grants to the extent
4 necessary for the costs relating to the hiring of school
5 resource officers and registered guards."

6 SECTION 3. (a) The department of education shall:

7 (1) Establish a two-year pilot program that assigns school
8 resource officers or guards registered pursuant to
9 chapter 463 to serve at public elementary schools and
10 state prekindergarten programs in the Campbell-Kapolei
11 complex area based on the factors as set forth in
12 section 302A- , Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

13 (2) Make recommendations based on the pilot program that
14 address student safety at public elementary schools
15 and state prekindergarten programs.

16 (b) No later than thirty days prior to the convening of
17 the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028, the department of
18 education shall submit to the legislature a report of its
19 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
20 legislation.



SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026, and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the provision of school resource officers and guards at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten programs under the pilot program established under section 3.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of education.

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

INTRODUCED BY:

Kurt Fowle



S.B. NO. 646

Report Title:

DOE; Schools; Children; Resource Officers; Guards; Pilot Program; Report; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to assign school resource officers or guards to serve at public elementary schools and state prekindergarten programs. Requires report to the Legislature. Requires the Department of Education to seek funding from federal grants. Appropriates funds.

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

