JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

DEPT. COMM. NO. 332

STATE OF HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA ʻOIHANA HOʻONAʻAUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAIʻI 96804

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF STRATEGY AND ADMINISTRATION

January 23, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813

Re: Hawaiʻi State Department of Education Annual Report on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, a copy of the annual Autism Spectrum Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis report is being transmitted, pursuant to Act 205, Session Laws of Hawaiʻi 2018, as amended by Act 166, Session Laws of Hawaiʻi 2023. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes, the report may be viewed electronically at: *https://hawaiipublicschools.org/data-reports/legislative-reports/*

Should you have any questions, please contact Ken Kakesako, Director of the Policy, Innovation, Planning and Evaluation Branch, Office of Strategy, Innovation, and Performance, via email at ken.kakesako@k12.hi.us or by phone at (808) 282-3430.

Sincerely,

Tammi Oyadomari-Chun
Deputy Superintendent of Strategy and Administration

TOC:ak
Attachment

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
Hawaiʻi State Public Library System
University of Hawaiʻi at Manoa
Hawaiʻi State Board of Education
Deputy Superintendent of Academics
Office of Student Support Services

State of Hawai‘i
Department of Education

Annual Report on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis

January 2026

Act 166, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2023, requires the Hawai‘i State Department of Education to provide an annual report on students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, students requiring applied behavior analysis, staffing updates, Medicaid reimbursement figures, and a licensure update.

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Applied Behavior Analysis Report

Introduction

This report to the Hawai‘i State Legislature and the Hawai‘i State Board of Education is in accordance with the reporting requirements of Act 166, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2023.

1) **The number of students eligible for special education and related services under the category of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who have an individualized education program**

   The number of students currently eligible for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services under the category of ASD is 3,099.

2) **The number of students requiring applied behavior analysis services**

   Within the Hawai‘i State Department of Education (Department), approximately 996 students receive applied behavior analysis (ABA) services as determined by their individualized education program (IEP) team; 714 are eligible for IDEA services under the ASD category.

3) **Staffing updates**

Department employees in Behavior Technician positions	134
Department employees in Behavior Analyst positions	19
Department employees in Behavior Analyst Teacher positions	26
Licensed psychologists doing ABA work	0
Contracted Registered Behavior Technicians (full-time and part-time) Credentialed under State ABA Contract	1,003
Licensed Behavior Analysts and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (full-time and part-time) Credentialed under State ABA Contract	163

4) **Medicaid reimbursement schedules and amounts**

Medicaid Reimbursement Total by State Fiscal Year

FY	Direct Services Claiming	Administrative Claiming
2023	$3,675,911	$1,596,210
2024	$2,279,015	$2,943,664
2025	$0	$2,428,769

The Department’s School-Based Medicaid Claiming Program (SBMCP) seeks Medicaid reimbursement for both eligible direct services provided to students in accordance with their IEPs and administrative activities performed in support of these services. In State Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the Department received $5,272,121 in total Medicaid reimbursement revenue; in FY 2024, $5,222,680; and in FY 2025, $2,428,769.

In FY 2025, Direct Services Claiming (DSC) is reported as $0 because the Department paused to meet updated federal and state Medicaid requirements and therefore did not submit any DSC reimbursement claims that year. This pause is intentional and ensures that all future claims fully comply with the CMS 2023 School-Based Services Guide, Delivering Services in School-Based Settings: A Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid Services and Administrative Claiming, and the Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division (MQD) January 2025 guide, Hawaii Medicaid Guide for School-Based Services.

During this transition, the Department is redesigning DSC, Random Moment Time Study (RMTS), and Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) workflows, updating documentation practices, and aligning internal procedures to meet compliance requirements.

To mitigate the impact of the pause, the Department is preparing a phased restart of Medicaid claiming. The plan is to resume billing for nursing and ABA services first, then expand to Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), and Speech Language Pathology (SLP) services by July 2026. Claiming will resume only as each service meets full compliance with the updated requirements.

5) Licensure updates

ABA services continue to be provided by licensed professionals and those qualified to provide services under their supervision, in accordance with the Hawai‘i Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.

6) Any other information pertinent to the implementation of this Act

The Department currently has a statewide contract with 18 ABA provider agencies to ensure students have access to ABA services. To fill vacant positions and reduce the amount of contracted ABA providers utilized across the state, the Department is working on:

- Recruitment and retention incentives for the Behavior Technician, Behavior Analyst, and Behavior Analyst Teacher positions;
- Developing high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) career pathways for recent graduates to be hired into Behavior Technician positions;
- Creating professional development and advancement opportunities for current staff to transition into ABA positions; and
- Revisions to current position descriptions for the Behavior Technician and Behavior Analyst positions.