

ACT 135

H.B. NO. 961

A Bill for an Act Relating to Education.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that out of the two hundred fifty-eight public elementary, middle, intermediate, and high schools throughout the State, only seventy-five schools have a full-time or part-time librarian position filled to support student learning in 2025.

The purpose of this Act is to:

- (1) Establish a two-year pilot program for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) certified librarians to provide rotating support services to schools in one school complex on Oahu and one school complex on a neighbor island; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for the positions.

SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department of education a two-year pilot program for two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) certified librarians to provide rotating support services to one school complex on Oahu and one school complex on a neighbor island. The department of education shall determine which school complexes shall be part of the pilot program.

(b) The department of education shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2026 and 2027. Each report shall include findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, about the pilot project established pursuant to subsection (a). The report submitted prior to the convening of the regular session of 2027 shall make a recommendation as to whether the pilot project should be extended.

(c) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30, 2027.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$132,308 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 establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) twelve-month state office-level teacher positions under the department of education for the pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of this Act; provided that the funds appropriated shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) \$66,154 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) twelve-month state office-level teacher position, to be filled by a certified librarian, for a school complex on Oahu; and
- (2) \$66,154 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) twelve-month state office-level teacher position, to be filled by a certified librarian, for a school complex on a neighbor island.

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

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

(Approved May 30, 2025.)