
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the foundation of a
2 child's life is developed within the first eight years, and any
3 interruption in a child's development trajectory can require
4 expensive intervention in later years. There is a great need in
5 Hawaii for varied, high-quality care and learning options that
6 support the whole child with regard to health, special needs,
7 nutrition, physical development, safety, and early learning.
8 Interagency coordination and collaboration are essential to
9 ensure children's optimal development in all domains and the
10 most effective use of resources. Successful transition to
11 elementary school requires effective collaboration,
12 communication, and continuity between early learning sites and
13 elementary schools.

14 The purpose of this Act is to build upon the 2005
15 recommendations of the Early Childhood Education Task Force and
16 by creating the framework for an early learning system which
17 will include an early learning authority, a public/private



1 advisory board, a workforce and professional development
2 institute, and early learning districts.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART

7 EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM

8 § -1 Declaration of intent. The early learning system
9 will provide equal opportunities for early learning, health,
10 social, and family resources that are responsive to families.
11 The system is focused on providing quality early learning
12 experiences for children, recognizes families as children's
13 first and most important teachers, and provides for parental
14 choice among high quality learning settings that ensure
15 successful transition of all children to elementary school. The
16 system will provide for children's care and educational needs,
17 prenatal to age eight, through a seamless, coordinated, and
18 integrated system. Early learning districts, through their
19 respective community councils, would assess needs, find gaps,
20 and develop a plan to make use of the variety of early childhood
21 programs and services offered at an affordable price.

22 § -2 Definitions. As used in this chapter:



1 "Authority" means the early learning authority.

2 "Institute" means the workforce and professional
3 development institute.

4 § -3 **Early learning authority.** (a) There is
5 established within the department of education for
6 administrative purposes the early learning authority. The goals
7 of the authority shall be to:

- 8 (1) Develop a plan to ensure equal voluntary access to
9 high-quality early learning experiences for all
10 four-year-olds;
- 11 (2) Convene a blue ribbon task force to establish a plan
12 and strategies for sustainable financing of the early
13 learning system;
- 14 (3) Set policy and standards for early childhood
15 education;
- 16 (4) Assess system needs and coordinate system levels;
- 17 (5) Set strategic priorities for the system;
- 18 (6) Coordinate department planning and budgeting to align
19 with strategic priorities;
- 20 (7) Monitor quality of programs and services;
- 21 (8) Provide technical assistance for programs and
22 services;



- 1 (9) Oversee evaluation of system performance;
- 2 (10) Promote early childhood education in Hawaii; and
- 3 (11) Contract if necessary with 501(c)(3) to coordinate
- 4 local-level planning and assessment.

5 **§ -4 Executive director.** The governor shall appoint an
6 executive director, who may be appointed without regard to
7 chapters 76 and 77, who shall be responsible for the authority.
8 The executive director shall be appointed on the basis of
9 professional competence and experience in the field of early
10 childhood education.

11 **§ -5 Advisory board.** (a) There is created the advisory
12 board for the authority. The board shall be placed within the
13 department of education for administrative purposes and shall
14 consist of _____ members appointed by the governor as provided
15 in section 26-34. _____ of the members shall be appointed from
16 a list of _____ nominees submitted by the speaker of the house
17 of representatives and _____ shall be appointed from a list of
18 _____ nominees submitted by the president of the senate.

19 (b) The members of the board shall serve without
20 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
21 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.



1 (c) The twenty members of the early childhood education
2 task force established pursuant to Act 151 of 2005 shall serve
3 as the advisory board for the authority for fiscal year 2006-
4 2007.

5 § -6 **Early learning districts.** There shall be
6 established four early learning districts, one for each of the
7 counties of Honolulu, Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Each district
8 shall have an early learning council as provided in this
9 section.

10 § -7 **Early learning councils.** (a) There shall be
11 established in each early learning district an early learning
12 council. The councils shall be placed within the department of
13 education for administrative purposes and shall consist of _____
14 members appointed by the governor as provided in section 26-34.
15 _____ of the members shall be appointed from a list of _____
16 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of
17 representatives and _____ shall be appointed from a list of
18 _____ nominees submitted by the president of the senate. The
19 goals of each council shall be to:

- 20 (1) Assess needs and coordinate district-level planning;
21 (2) Assess the performance of the district in relation to
22 district and system strategic priorities;



1 (3) Coordinate interagency programs and services.

2 (b) The members of each council shall serve without
3 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
4 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

5 **§ -8 Workforce and professional development institute.**

6 (a) There is established in the department of education for
7 administrative purposes a workforce and professional development
8 institute. The goals of the institute shall be to:

- 9 (1) Ensure the recruitment and retention of a high-quality
10 workforce for early learning programs;
- 11 (2) Conduct ongoing needs assessment and analysis of
12 community early learning programs staffing needs;
- 13 (3) Plan and provide for community-specific implementation
14 of recruitment and retention strategies;
- 15 (4) Advocate for and convene partners to ensure increased
16 access to early learning community-based training and
17 higher education opportunities;
- 18 (5) Provide technical assistance to counties to identify
19 needs and secure funding to expand workforce and
20 professional development opportunities within their
21 communities and counties; and



1 (6) Collaborate with the department of education and the
2 teacher education coordinating council.

3 (b) The governor shall appoint an institute director, who
4 may be appointed without regard to chapters 76 and 77, who shall
5 be responsible for the institute. The institute director, in
6 collaboration with the institute advisory board and the
7 authority advisory board, shall:

8 (1) Develop and implement a compensation plan for the
9 State to include incremental pay increases for all
10 early learning childcare providers who meet plan
11 requirements;

12 (2) Develop and implement a plan to support the
13 recruitment and retention of the early childhood
14 workforce for all early learning settings; and

15 (3) Develop and implement a plan to increase access to
16 higher education and community-based training.

17 (c) There shall be established an institute advisory board
18 appointed by the governor pursuant to section 26-34, whose
19 members shall include representatives from center-based, family
20 childcare, play and learn, and home visiting/parent education
21 direct service providers, higher education, and community-based
22 trainers and training organizations.



1 (d) The members of the institute advisory board shall
2 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,
3 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
4 their duties."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,500,000, or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
8 carry out the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of
9 necessary staff. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
10 department of education.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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HB 2081

Report Title:

Early Childhood Education

Description:

Creates early childhood system including early learning authority, workforce and professional development institute; and early learning districts; establishes early childhood education task force as transitional board for early learning authority for one year. Appropriates \$3.5 million to support new system.

