
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that recent neuroscience
2 research demonstrates that a child's early years are the most
3 crucial in the child's cognitive, emotional, social, and
4 physical development. The legislature affirms that there are
5 tremendous opportunities for preventive work with children and
6 families as well as the predictable, costly consequences of not
7 doing so. The legislature further finds that quality early
8 childhood education and child care that support all aspects of
9 early development are crucial to ensuring that every child
10 starts his or her formal education healthy, safe, and ready to
11 learn and succeed. A child's ability to function in the
12 classroom is essential. This goal can be achieved by assuring
13 that each child can hear, see, and speak at a minimal level
14 prior to starting school.

15 The legislature further finds that early screening,
16 identification, and intervention for developmental delays and
17 psychosocial problems improve children's outcomes and have a
18 critical influence on school success and family functioning.



1 The ideal is to provide each child with ongoing access to
2 quality primary health care and, to the greatest extent
3 possible, a safe home and community environment. However, not
4 all children have access to quality primary health care prior to
5 the start of school. It is in the state's interest to provide
6 developmental screening and assessment that will detect
7 deficiencies and provide corrections before they hinder a
8 child's ability to function in school.

9 The departments of health, education, and human services
10 currently provide families access to various community health
11 services. However, parents are often unaware of or choose not
12 to avail themselves of these services. Meanwhile, their
13 children do not receive proper screening, evaluation, and
14 referrals for correction or treatment.

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide a means for a child
16 to be screened prior to the start of the child's education, at
17 the child's first entry into preschool and elementary school, to
18 provide for diagnosis, referral, correction or treatment, and to
19 integrate the efforts of community and state organizations
20 related to screening under this Hawaii childhood screening
21 initiative.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§321- Early childhood screenings. (a) Prior to the
5 start of a child's entry into either preschool or kindergarten,
6 the parents or guardians of a child shall have the child
7 screened for vision, hearing, and development. Screening
8 certification of the child may be provided by:

- 9 (1) The child's pediatrician; or
10 (2) Any primary healthcare provider.

11 If the child does not have a pediatrician or primary healthcare
12 provider, the department may provide the screening or refer the
13 child to a primary health care provider at no cost to the child
14 or family.

15 (b) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, a
16 certificate of screening shall be presented to the school where
17 the student enters:

- 18 (1) Preschool; and
19 (2) Kindergarten or first grade, whichever is the
20 student's entry grade level for elementary school.

21 (c) The department of health shall be the lead department
22 in the development of screening guidelines and shall administer



1 the screening and certification process in collaboration with
2 the departments of education and human services, within the
3 framework defined by the Hawaii childhood screening initiative
4 task force.

5 (d) As part of the screening and certification process
6 required by subsection (a), the department, physician, or
7 provider may:

8 (1) Provide information and referrals to programs and
9 services to help remediate any concerns revealed by
10 the screening;

11 (2) Inform parents and guardians of their responsibilities
12 to ensure that the child's psychological and
13 physiological development is progressing
14 satisfactorily;

15 (3) Provide assistance and advice to parents and guardians
16 in meeting their responsibilities under paragraph (2);

17 (4) Provide additional evaluation or referrals as deemed
18 necessary; and

19 (5) Use standardized screening tools and referral
20 protocols developed by the Hawaii childhood screening
21 initiative task force.



1 (e) A waiver signed by a child's parents or guardian
2 indicating that they do not want to have the child screened
3 based on their religious beliefs shall be accepted by the school
4 in lieu of the certificate required in subsection (a)."

5 SECTION 3. (a) There is established the Hawaii childhood
6 screening initiative task force to:

- 7 (1) Plan and implement a statewide screening initiative
- 8 for all children from birth to eight years of age;
- 9 (2) Develop and implement a screening certification
- 10 program for children entering preschool and elementary
- 11 school; and
- 12 (3) Unify screening related activities in the state by
- 13 January 1, 2007.

14 (b) The members of the task force shall include but not be
15 limited to representatives from:

- 16 (1) The department of health;
- 17 (2) The department of human services;
- 18 (3) The department of education;
- 19 (4) The University of Hawaii, John A. Burns school of
- 20 medicine, department of pediatrics;
- 21 (5) The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii chapter;
- 22 (6) The Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians;

- 1 (7) The Hawaii Primary Care Association;
- 2 (8) The Family Voices of Hawaii (A children's health
3 advocacy organization);
- 4 (9) The Hilopaa Project;
- 5 (10) The healthy child care Hawaii project;
- 6 (11) The Hawaii state council on developmental
7 disabilities;
- 8 (12) The Hawaii early intervention coordinating council;
9 and
- 10 (13) Consumer representation as represented by the
11 children's parents.
- 12 (c) The task force may request assistance from the
13 department of health and other state agencies as necessary to
14 provide staff support.
- 15 (d) The members of the task force shall serve without
16 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses,
17 including travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their
18 duties.
- 19 (e) The task force shall:
- 20 (1) Recommend selection of standardized developmental
21 screening tools for children from birth through age
22 eight years of age, including but not limited to:



- 1 (A) Cognitive development;
- 2 (B) Language development;
- 3 (C) Motor development;
- 4 (D) Adaptive skills;
- 5 (E) Behavioral or social-emotional development;
- 6 (F) Hearing; and
- 7 (G) Vision;
- 8 (2) Formalize referral protocols;
- 9 (3) Develop guidelines for reporting the completion of a
- 10 child's screening requirement for children entering
- 11 preschool or elementary school;
- 12 (4) Address issues related to physician participation; and
- 13 (5) Evaluate compliance and appropriateness of referrals.
- 14 (f) The task force shall submit to the legislature an
- 15 annual report no later than twenty days prior the start of each
- 16 regular session, beginning with the regular session of 2007, on
- 17 the status of the early childhood screenings program and any
- 18 recommended legislation necessary to improve the program.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general

20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof

21 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the planning,

22 implementation, and evaluation of early childhood screenings.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 health for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



HB NO. 3139 HD3

Report Title:
Early Childhood

Description:

Provides a means for childhood screening required for entry into school, from birth to eight years of age, and establishes a childhood screening taskforce. (HB3139 HD3)

HB3139 HD3 HMS 2006-2320

