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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the mind is shaped  
3 significantly by experiences and other stimuli in the first five  
4 years of a child's life. This period sets the foundation in  
5 which a person forms his or her behavioral, emotional, social,  
6 and decision-making skills, values, self-esteem, and lifelong  
7 learning ability. In short, this period paves the way for a  
8 child's healthy, successful development.

9 Neglect and inadequate care in the early years can hold a  
10 child back from achieving the child's full potential and,  
11 instead, place the child at risk for poor outcomes later in  
12 life, which has considerable social costs.

13 Research and studies have shown that providing children  
14 with proper early childhood care and education has a far-  
15 reaching, long-term impact on their development. Thus, the  
16 legislature recognizes the importance of providing children with  
17 early learning opportunities of the highest quality. Early



1 learning programs, both public and private, should meet  
2 professionally-accepted standards, be staffed by well-trained,  
3 appropriately-compensated educators, and be available to all  
4 children.

5 Accordingly, the legislature created the temporary early  
6 childhood education task force in 2005 to:

- 7 (1) Develop plans and proposals to increase access to  
8 early learning programs for all children;
- 9 (2) Increase participation in these programs by promoting  
10 their value; and
- 11 (3) Improve the quality of programs and practitioners.

12 The legislature also finds that forty per cent of four-  
13 year-old children are already being served by public schools  
14 through the kindergarten program. Having recognized this fact,  
15 the legislature, through Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004  
16 (Act 219), established junior kindergarten in public elementary  
17 schools for children who are at least five years old after  
18 August 1 and before January 1 of the school year, beginning with  
19 the 2006-2007 school year. The intent of Act 219 was to  
20 implement a flexible, developmentally appropriate curriculum to  
21 ensure a child's school readiness.





1           The task force shall be composed of two working groups,  
2 namely, the interdepartmental working group and quality  
3 assurance working group.

4           (b) The interdepartmental working group shall develop  
5 plans to maximize public and private resources to provide early  
6 learning opportunities for all children in the state who are  
7 four years old by January 1 of that school year.

8           (c) The quality assurance working group shall develop  
9 plans to:

- 10           (1) Expand upon the current system of public education  
11           services for all four-year-old children;
- 12           (2) Maintain and expand the role of the department of  
13           human services in providing early learning  
14           opportunities through programs such as the preschool  
15           open doors program;
- 16           (3) Maintain and expand the role of the office of  
17           community services of the department of labor and  
18           industrial relations in providing early learning  
19           opportunities through programs such as Head Start;
- 20           (4) Maintain and expand the role of the department of  
21           health in providing early learning opportunities to  
22           special needs children;



- 1 (5) Maintain and expand the role of the department of  
2 education in extending educational services to all  
3 four-year-old children who wish to enroll;
- 4 (6) Be primarily sited in public facilities, whether the  
5 program is publicly or privately run;
- 6 (7) Recognize a variety of early learning approaches and  
7 service deliveries; and
- 8 (8) Be sustained by various types of funding, including  
9 federal, state, and private funds.
- 10 (d) The task force shall make recommendations for the  
11 early learning system, relating to:
- 12 (1) Developing a plan to implement standards for age- and  
13 developmentally-appropriate curriculum;
- 14 (2) Recruiting teachers into public and private schools  
15 who are certified in early childhood education;
- 16 (3) Continuing professional development of teachers;
- 17 (4) Maintaining small class sizes and adult-to-child  
18 ratios; and
- 19 (5) Encouraging more family education and participation.
- 20 (e) The composition of the early learning educational task  
21 force shall be as follows:
- 22 (1) For the interdepartmental working group:



- 1 (A) The superintendent of education or the
- 2 superintendent's designee;
- 3 (B) The chairperson of the board of education or the
- 4 chairperson's designee;
- 5 (C) The director of human services or the director's
- 6 designee;
- 7 (D) The director of health or the director's
- 8 designee;
- 9 (E) The executive director of the office of community
- 10 services of the department labor and industrial
- 11 relations or the executive director's designee;
- 12 (F) Two members from the community, appointed by the
- 13 superintendent of education; and
- 14 (G) Two members from the community, appointed by the
- 15 director of human services.
- 16 (2) For the quality assurance working group:
- 17 (A) A specialist from the department of education on
- 18 the junior kindergarten and Families for R.E.A.L.
- 19 programs;
- 20 (B) The dean of the University of Hawaii college of
- 21 education or the dean's designee;

- 1 (C) The chancellor of the University of Hawaii - West
- 2 Oahu or the chancellor's designee;
- 3 (D) The chancellor of the University of Hawaii at
- 4 Hilo or the chancellor's designee;
- 5 (E) A representative designated by the chancellors of
- 6 the University of Hawaii community colleges;
- 7 (F) The president of Chaminade University or the
- 8 president's designee;
- 9 (G) The executive director of the Hawaii Association
- 10 of Independent Schools or the executive
- 11 director's designee;
- 12 (H) The director of the Hawaii Head Start - State
- 13 Collaboration Office or the director's designee;
- 14 (I) The executive director of the Hawaii Association
- 15 for the Education of Young Children or the
- 16 executive director's designee;
- 17 (J) The board president of PATCH Hawaii or the board
- 18 president's designee; and
- 19 (K) A representative of the organizations of native
- 20 Hawaiian community-based programs for early
- 21 childhood education.

1 (f) The chairperson of the task force shall be selected  
2 from among the community members appointed to the task force, by  
3 a majority of the members of the task force.

4 (g) The early learning educational task force may form  
5 subcommittees to:

6 (1) Obtain input from stakeholders, early education  
7 professionals, and any other individuals as may be  
8 determined necessary by the task force; and

9 (2) Perform any other function as may be deemed necessary  
10 by the task force for the fulfillment of its  
11 functions.

12 (h) The subcommittees shall be exempt from chapter 92,  
13 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 (i) The department of education and department of human  
15 services may enter into a contract with any agency or  
16 organization to implement any part of this Act.

17 (j) The members of the early learning educational task  
18 force shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed  
19 for expenses necessary for the performance of their duties,  
20 including travel expenses.

21 SECTION 3. The early learning educational task force shall  
22 submit reports to the governor and legislature as follows:





1 (1) An interim report of its progress, including any  
2 proposed legislation to be submitted no later than  
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the 2007 regular  
4 session; and

5 (2) A final report of its progress, findings, and  
6 recommendations, including any additional proposed  
7 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the  
8 convening of the 2008 regular session.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the  
12 operations of the early learning educational task force.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 education for the purposes of this part.

15 PART III

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to enhance  
19 junior kindergarten services to ensure children are provided  
20 with learning experiences that promote the skills they need to  
21 be successful in kindergarten or first grade.

22 Specifically, these funds will be used as follows:



- 1 (1) To create a full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent  
2 specialist who focuses on early childhood education  
3 and is responsible for policies, curriculum, and  
4 assessment relating to junior kindergarten programs;
- 5 (2) To create ( FTE) permanent teaching  
6 positions for individuals with degrees in elementary  
7 education and preferably have an endorsement or  
8 substantial coursework in early childhood education;
- 9 (3) For ongoing, professional development of teachers; and  
10 (4) For classroom resources.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
12 education for the purposes of this section.

13 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to expand  
16 to three new sites the department of education's Families for  
17 R.E.A.L., which is an early childhood program that fosters  
18 interaction between parents and their children; provided that  
19 each site shall receive \$100,000; provided further that priority  
20 for new sites shall be in areas not currently served by Head  
21 Start programs.



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

3 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$700,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to support  
6 grantees of the Early Head Start and Head Start programs, which  
7 are comprehensive early childhood education programs that serve  
8 low-income children and families.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
10 labor and industrial relations for the purposes of this section.

11 PART IV

12 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006, and  
13 shall be repealed on July 1, 2008.

CB NO. 3101 SD2  
HD 1

**Report Title:**

Early Childhood Education

**Description:**

Builds a comprehensive system of early childhood learning services by further developing and refining the recommendations of the temporary early childhood education task force.

Establishes and appropriates funds for an early learning educational task force. Builds upon the existing framework and services for early childhood learning. (SB3101 HD1)

SB3101 HD1 HMS 2006-2919

