
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 each school year, beginning with
8 the 2006-2007 school year.

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

11 (1) Expand upon the current system of public education
12 services for all four-year-old children;

13 (2) Maintain and expand the role of the department of
14 human services in providing early learning
15 opportunities through programs such as the preschool
16 open doors program;

17 (3) Maintain and expand the role of the office of
18 community services of the department of labor and
19 industrial relations in providing early learning
20 opportunities through programs such as Head Start;



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



1 (e) The composition of the early learning educational task
2 force shall be as follows:

3 (1) For the interdepartmental working group:

4 (A) The superintendent of education or the
5 superintendent's designee;

6 (B) The chairperson of the board of education or the
7 chairperson's designee;

8 (C) The director of human services or the director's
9 designee;

10 (D) The director of health or the director's
11 designee;

12 (E) The executive director of the office of community
13 services of the department labor and industrial
14 relations or the executive director's designee;

15 (F) Two members from the community, appointed by the
16 superintendent of education; and

17 (G) Two members from the community, appointed by the
18 director of human services.

19 (2) For the quality assurance working group:

20 (A) A specialist from the department of education on
21 the junior kindergarten and Families for R.E.A.L.
22 programs;



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

1 (K) A representative of the organizations of native
2 Hawaiian community-based programs for early
3 childhood education.

4 (f) The chairperson of the task force shall be selected
5 from among the community members appointed to the task force, by
6 a majority of the members of the task force.

7 (g) The early learning educational task force may form
8 subcommittees to:

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

12 (2) Perform any other function as may be deemed necessary
13 by the task force for the fulfillment of its
14 functions.

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

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

20 (j) The members of the early learning educational task
21 force shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed



1 for expenses necessary for the performance of their duties,
2 including travel expenses.

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

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

9 (2) A final report of its progress, findings, and
10 recommendations, including any additional proposed
11 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
12 convening of the 2008 regular session.

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

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

19 PART III

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to enhance



1 junior kindergarten services to ensure children are provided
2 with learning experiences that promote the skills they need to
3 be successful in kindergarten or first grade.

4 Specifically, these funds will be used as follows:

5 (1) To create a full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent
6 specialist who focuses on early childhood education
7 and is responsible for policies, curriculum, and
8 assessment relating to junior kindergarten programs;

9 (2) To create (FTE) permanent teaching
10 positions for individuals with degrees in elementary
11 education and preferably have an endorsement or
12 substantial coursework in early childhood education;

13 (3) For ongoing, professional development of teachers; and

14 (4) For classroom resources.

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

17 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to expand
20 to three new sites the department of education's Families for
21 R.E.A.L., which is an early childhood program that fosters
22 interaction between parents and their children; provided that

1 each site shall receive \$100,000; provided further that priority
2 for new sites shall be in areas not currently served by Head
3 Start programs.

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

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

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

14 PART IV

15 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020, and
16 shall be repealed on July 1, 2008.



SB 3101
SD2
HD2

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. Effective date July 1, 2020. (SB3101 HD2)

