
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005,
2 established in the University of Hawaii a temporary early
3 childhood education task force to:
- 4 (1) Propose an overall plan to increase access to early
5 childhood education opportunities for families, which
6 may include incentives, resource development, the need
7 for and availability of infrastructure, and possible
8 funding sources;
- 9 (2) Develop plans and identify resources needed to improve
10 the quality and services of early childhood learning
11 programs;
- 12 (3) Design proposals to support the professional
13 development of early childhood education staff;
- 14 (4) Create an implementation plan to motivate and promote
15 the value of and participation in early childhood
16 learning opportunities for parents and the general
17 public, including the business community; and



1 (5) Recommend to the legislature a conceptual framework,
2 along with proposals for policies and legislation
3 necessary to facilitate and monitor the implementation
4 of such a framework.

5 In December 2005, the temporary early childhood education
6 task force submitted its report to the legislature.

7 The purpose of this Act is to implement the recommendations
8 of the temporary early childhood education task force.

9 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
10 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
11 as follows:

12 **"CHAPTER**

13 **OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING**

14 **§ -1 Office of early learning; established; board. (a)**

15 There is established the office of early learning, which shall
16 be a body corporate and a public instrumentality of the State,
17 for the purposes of implementing this chapter. The office of
18 early learning shall be placed within the department of
19 education for administrative purposes and staffed by an
20 executive director and appropriate staff.

21 The office of early learning shall develop, implement, and
22 provide for the sustainability of a coherent, comprehensive



1 early learning system that maximizes public and private
2 resources to provide early learning opportunities for all young
3 children in the State up to five years of age.

4 (b) There is established the early learning policy board
5 to govern the office of early learning, which shall be placed
6 within the department of education for administrative purposes.
7 The board shall be composed of members from the private and
8 public sectors who shall be charged with addressing the vision,
9 mission, goals, and guiding principles of Hawaii's early
10 childhood learning system conceptual framework. The governor
11 shall appoint the members of the board pursuant to section
12 26-34; provided that:

- 13 (1) Membership on the board shall not exceed twenty;
- 14 (2) The private sector shall be broadly represented and
15 membership representing the private sector shall not
16 be less than fifteen;
- 17 (3) The governor shall:
- 18 (A) Appoint members from a list of nominees submitted
19 from the temporary early childhood education task
20 force as identified in section 2(d) of Act 151,
21 Session Laws of Hawaii 2005;



1 (B) Determine which board members shall serve
2 ex-officio and whether they shall be voting or
3 nonvoting members;

4 (C) Consider for membership additional individuals
5 who do not represent organizations currently
6 represented by members of the temporary early
7 childhood education task force; and

8 (D) Appoint the members of the board no later than
9 December 31, 2006; and

10 (4) The members of the temporary early childhood education
11 task force shall act as a transitional board of
12 directors until the governor appoints the permanent
13 members of the board of directors pursuant to
14 paragraph (3).

15 (c) The board shall select an executive director and
16 appoint from its members a chairperson, vice chairperson,
17 secretary, treasurer, and any other officers that the board may
18 deem necessary or desirable to carry out its functions.

19 (d) The board shall obtain input from stakeholders, early
20 education professionals, and other individuals as necessary.



1 (e) Members shall serve without compensation, but may be
2 reimbursed for necessary expenses, including travel expenses,
3 incurred in the performance of their duties.

4 § -2 **Powers and duties.** The office of early learning
5 shall:

- 6 (1) Set standards, desired outcomes, and systems to
7 evaluate early education programs;
- 8 (2) Ensure a statewide integrated early childhood system;
- 9 (3) Increase the quality of education through access to
10 education and training of professionals;
- 11 (4) Provide funding for early childhood education programs
12 and for the implementation of pilot programs as
13 necessary;
- 14 (5) Develop an incremental implementation and financing
15 plan for Hawaii's early learning system;
- 16 (6) Mandate cross-sector and interdepartmental
17 collaboration;
- 18 (7) Accept and expend appropriations and any other state
19 funding to support the operations of the office of
20 early learning and to implement priorities and
21 standards to help build and strengthen programs while
22 enhancing their quality and capacity;



1 (8) Develop a plan to ensure equal voluntary access to
2 high quality early learning experiences for all
3 children who are four years of age;

4 (9) Establish a mechanism to ensure the recruitment and
5 retention of a high quality workforce for early
6 learning programs, and to address the need for an
7 early childhood education compensation plan, access to
8 higher education and community-based training, and
9 technical assistance and supports including
10 professional development counseling and scholarships;
11 and

12 (10) Promote the importance of early learning to families,
13 policymakers, and the general public.

14 § -3 **Early learning community councils.** (a) The office
15 of early learning shall establish four early learning community
16 councils in the city and county of Honolulu and the counties of
17 Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Community councils shall initiate and
18 facilitate community representation so that the needs and plans
19 of each community are reflected and represented in the plans of
20 the respective community councils. These councils shall be
21 supported by an early learning liaison responsible for



1 determining community needs and developing plans that provide a
2 variety and breadth of programs that families desire.

3 Each community council shall have at least one
4 representative from each of the following: the departments of
5 education, health, and human services; each community; an
6 organization representing parents with young children; a
7 provider of early education and care services; a private agency
8 concerned with health, human services, or education; the
9 business community; and local government.

10 (b) The duties of the early learning community councils
11 shall be to:

- 12 (1) Collect and report data;
- 13 (2) Identify outcomes and indicators;
- 14 (3) Set strategic priorities;
- 15 (4) Coordinate community programs and services;
- 16 (5) Plan and budget to align programs with community
17 strategic priorities;
- 18 (6) Assess performance of the community in relation to
19 community and system strategic priorities; and
- 20 (7) Coordinate interagency programs and services including
21 public awareness, technical assistance to providers,



1 leadership and professional development, and one-stop
2 services for financial aid.

3 § -4 **Nonprofit organization; contract.** The office of
4 early learning may contract with an early education organization
5 that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under section
6 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to
7 assist in its duties.

8 § -5 **Workforce and professional development for early**
9 **childhood education.** The office of early learning shall
10 establish a mechanism to accomplish the following:

- 11 (1) Develop an early childhood education compensation plan
12 for the State;
- 13 (2) Develop and implement a plan to support the
14 recruitment and retention of the early childhood
15 workforce for all early learning settings;
- 16 (3) Develop and implement a plan to increase access to
17 higher education and community-based training;
- 18 (4) Conduct ongoing needs assessment and analysis of
19 community early learning programs staffing needs;
- 20 (5) Plan and provide for community-specific implementation
21 of recruitment and retention strategies with a



- 1 particular focus on creating career and professional
2 development counseling and support statewide;
- 3 (6) Advocate for and convene partners to ensure increased
4 access to a broad array of early learning
5 community-based and higher education options;
- 6 (7) Provide technical assistance to the counties to
7 identify the needs and secure funding to expand
8 workforce and professional development opportunities
9 within their communities; and
- 10 (8) Collaborate with the department of education and the
11 teacher education coordinating council.

12 § -6 **Pilot program.** (a) The office of early learning
13 shall conduct and oversee a five-year pilot program that shall
14 include the following elements:

- 15 (1) A summer transition program for children entering
16 kindergarten or junior kindergarten;
- 17 (2) Transition and professional development training for
18 elementary school staff;
- 19 (3) Parenting, caregiver, and family childcare education
20 with social and emotional training available to all
21 community members year-round;



1 (4) Play and learn group and parent participation
2 preschool programs that shall provide early childhood
3 experiences and incorporate family education and
4 support services; and

5 (5) Model preschool based on standards established by the
6 office of early learning.

7 (b) The five-year pilot program shall cover five
8 successive entering classes of students at one school in each
9 county, and shall maintain a system of data collection tied
10 directly to goals, standards, and outcomes.

11 (c) The pilot program shall be overseen administratively
12 by the office of early learning.

13 (d) The office of early learning shall provide an annual
14 report to the legislature on the pilot program findings and
15 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
17 of 2007, and each year thereafter."

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for
21 the operation of the office of early learning and to contract

1 with an early education organization that qualifies as a tax
2 exempt organization as set forth in this Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007,
6 which represents an allocation of \$ to the school in
7 each county in which the pilot program established by this Act
8 shall be implemented.

9 SECTION 5. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
10 department of education for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Early Childhood Education

Description:

Creates office of early learning within DOE. Appropriates funds. (SD2)

