

JAN 25 2006

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a number of local  
2 and national studies have recognized substantial differences  
3 between students within a grade in terms of their performance  
4 and ability based on their birthdates. Younger students born  
5 between July and December are at greatest risk for a variety of  
6 learning difficulties. To create conditions that will enable  
7 children in Hawaii to succeed in kindergarten and later grades,  
8 the legislature enacted Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, to  
9 implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum by  
10 establishing a two-tier junior kindergarten and kindergarten.

11           The purpose of this Act is to assist in implementing Act  
12 219, by appropriating funds to provide additional teacher and  
13 educational assistant positions for junior kindergarten and  
14 kindergarten classes and to conduct a longitudinal study to  
15 evaluate the pilot program and follow children from kindergarten  
16 to grade three to find implications and correlation to student  
17 achievement that are attributable to the establishment of junior  
18 kindergarten and kindergarten with a more targeted



1 developmentally appropriate curriculum to address the range of  
2 learners in the classroom.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, as  
6 follows:

7 (1) For additional teachers and educational  
8 assistants to support junior  
9 kindergarten and kindergarten classes \$ ;

10 (2) To conduct a longitudinal study that  
11 follows children for the first four  
12 grades of school to find implications  
13 and correlations to student achievement  
14 that are attributable to the  
15 establishment of junior kindergarten  
16 and kindergarten with a more targeted  
17 developmentally appropriate curriculum \$ .

18 SECTION 3. The study shall be conducted by the department  
19 of education and follow children from kindergarten to grade  
20 three. The department of education shall prepare and submit a  
21 report of the findings of the study to the legislature no later



1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
2 of 2011.

3 SECTION 4. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the  
4 department of education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Education; Kindergarten; Junior Kindergarten; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for additional teachers and educational assistants for junior kindergarten and kindergarten classes. Appropriates funds for a longitudinal study that follows children from kindergarten to grade 3.

