
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 any correlation between student
17 achievement and the establishment of junior kindergarten.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,525,000, or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, as
4 follows:

5 (1) For additional teachers and educational
6 assistants to support junior
7 kindergarten and kindergarten classes: \$3,400,000;

8 (2) To conduct a longitudinal study that
9 follows children for the first four
10 grades of school to find implications
11 and correlations to student achievement
12 that are attributable to the
13 establishment of junior kindergarten
14 and kindergarten with a more targeted
15 developmentally appropriate curriculum: \$125,000.

16 SECTION 3. The study shall be conducted by the department
17 of education and follow children from kindergarten to grade
18 three. The department of education shall prepare and submit a
19 report of the findings of the study to the legislature no later
20 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
21 of 2011.



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

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

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. (SD1)

