

MAR 15 2006

S.R. NO. 153

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AGE-
APPROPRIATE STANDARDS FOR PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS.

1 WHEREAS, preschool is becoming the norm in American
2 education, and children who do not attend it start school at a
3 disadvantage; and

4
5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Preschool Standards are written for
6 four-year olds who are expected to enter Kindergarten in the
7 following year; and

8
9 WHEREAS, a child who is developmentally delayed must enter
10 the Department of Education system based on chronological age;
11 and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Preschool Standards are not appropriate
14 for a developmentally delayed child; now, therefore,

15
16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
18 that the Department of Education is requested, in coordination
19 with the Family Health Services Division of the Department of
20 Health, to develop age-appropriate standards for preschool age
21 children with special needs, including but not limited to sign
22 language and developmental milestones and goals, and criteria
23 for preschool readiness; and

24
25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education, in
26 coordination with the Family Health Services Division of the
27 Department of Health, is requested to develop age-appropriate
28 standards to determine when a child is ready for a special
29 education preschool classroom or an appropriate placement, and
30 not simply establish that the least-restrictive environment
31 qualifies as a special education preschool because the child
32 reaches the age of three; and

33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the
35 Superintendent of Education is requested to report its standards



1 to the Legislature twenty days before the convening of the
2 Regular Session of 2007; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
6 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Director of
7 Health, and the Chief of the Family Health Services Division.

8
9
10

OFFERED BY: Shanne Chun Oalalau

