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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 purpose of this Act is to encourage quality  
2 early learning opportunities for young children in the State  
3 from birth up to age five by:

4 (1) Requiring the department of education to identify  
5 unused public school land or facilities for use by  
6 state early childhood education programs; and

7 (2) Providing funding to achieve a student-to-teacher  
8 ratio of not higher than fifteen to one in certain  
9 schools.

10 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1506.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 "[~~§~~§302A-1506.5[~~§~~] **Early childhood education facilities;**  
13 **identifying sites[-]; inspections.** (a) The department of  
14 education shall identify unused public school facilities for use  
15 by early childhood education programs. Suitable empty  
16 classrooms, as determined by the department, shall be  
17 [~~inventoried for potential use in~~] prepared and utilized for



1 early childhood education programs[-]; provided that the  
2 classrooms shall meet the licensing standards determined by the  
3 departments of education and human services. Priority shall be  
4 given to land or facilities on sites with sufficient space for  
5 three or more classrooms to be renovated or constructed.

6 (b) The department shall assist in the identification of  
7 possible construction sites for private providers to build early  
8 childhood education facilities.

9 (c) The department of human services, which currently  
10 inspects early childhood education facilities for the proper  
11 operation, sanitation, and safety of the facilities, shall  
12 submit regular reports with its findings and recommendations to  
13 the department of education. All early childhood education  
14 facilities shall be open at all times to visitation and  
15 inspection by representatives of the departments of education,  
16 human services, and health, and by the designated  
17 representatives of the respective county fire departments.

18 (d) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
19 to effectuate this section."

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
22 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and



1 the same amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary for  
2 fiscal year 2008-2009, for junior kindergarten teachers, to  
3 assist underachieving schools with a high percentage of students  
4 who qualify for free and reduced lunches achieve a fifteen  
5 student to one teacher ratio in junior kindergarten programs.  
6 Funding shall be allocated on a sliding scale based on the  
7 percentage of students at a school who qualify for free or  
8 reduced lunches, with schools with a higher percentage receiving  
9 proportionately more funds than schools with a lower percentage;  
10 provided that the ratio may be met by hiring part-time teachers  
11 or by providing teachers with educational assistants.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
13 of education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
17 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Early Education; Appropriation

**Description:**

Provides funds to achieve a maximum student-to-teacher ratio in certain schools. Requires the department of education to identify unused public school land and facilities. (SD2)

