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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Children with Down syndrome generally develop  
2 at a slower rate and have different patterns of development than  
3 typically developing children. This delay in development means  
4 that children with Down syndrome will not learn to sit, stand,  
5 walk, or talk as early as other children. It also means that  
6 children with Down syndrome may need more repetition and more  
7 consistency than typically developing children when learning new  
8 skills.

9           The goal of intervention programs for children with Down  
10 syndrome is to maximize each child's developmental potential and  
11 improve long-term functional outcomes for the children and their  
12 families. It is recommended that a "total communication"  
13 approach (sign language, oral communication, and visual cues) be  
14 used to help children with Down syndrome develop expressive  
15 language. Early intervention services provide developmentally  
16 appropriate activities to maximize a child's cognitive,



1 communication, motor, self-help, and social-emotional growth  
2 until the child is ready for kindergarten.

3       The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004  
4 gives the State discretion to extend early intervention services  
5 to children with disabilities who are eligible for services  
6 under title 20 United States Code section 1419 and who  
7 previously received services under title 20 United States Code  
8 sections 1431-1444, until the children enter, or are eligible  
9 under state law to enter, kindergarten or elementary school, as  
10 appropriate. The continuation of early intervention services  
11 for eligible children with Down syndrome until they are eligible  
12 to enter kindergarten will provide continuity of services until  
13 the child is ready to transition to a special education program.

14       SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall design  
15 and implement an early intervention services pilot program for  
16 eligible children with Down syndrome. In designing and  
17 implementing the early intervention services pilot program, the  
18 department of education shall:

19       (1) Research best practices for maximizing each child's  
20           developmental potential and improving long-term  
21           functional outcomes for the children and their  
22           families;



- 1           (2) Provide early intervention services, as that term is  
2           defined under section 321-351, Hawaii Revised  
3           Statutes, to children diagnosed with Down syndrome who  
4           are eligible for services under title 20 United States  
5           Code section 1419, and who previously received  
6           services under title 20 United States Code sections  
7           1431-1444;
- 8           (3) Utilize a "total communication" approach (sign  
9           language, oral communication, and visual cues) to help  
10          children with Down syndrome develop expressive  
11          language;
- 12          (4) Provide developmentally appropriate activities to  
13          maximize a child's cognitive, communication, motor,  
14          self-help, and social-emotional growth until the child  
15          is ready for kindergarten; and
- 16          (5) Consult with the department of health, as necessary.
- 17          (b) The department of education shall submit an interim  
18          report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
19          convening of the 2008 regular session, and shall submit a final  
20          report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
21          convening of the 2012 regular session.



1 (c) The department of health shall assist the department  
2 of education, as necessary, including in the provision of sign  
3 language, oral communication, and visual cues to help children  
4 with Down syndrome develop expressive language.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and  
8 the same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2008-2009, to the department of education to design and  
10 implement an early intervention services pilot program for  
11 eligible children with Down syndrome pursuant to section 2 of  
12 this Act.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
14 of education for the purposes of section 2 of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007, and  
16 shall be repealed on June 30, 2012.



**Report Title:**

Appropriation; Early Intervention Services

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to design and implement an early intervention services pilot program for eligible children with Down syndrome; appropriates funds for the pilot program; sunset date. (SD1)

