

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to change and  
2 improve certain provisions of the early learning system  
3 established by Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2008.

4           SECTION 2. Section 302L-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

6           "(a) There is established an early learning council which  
7 shall be attached to the department of education for  
8 administrative purposes only, notwithstanding any other law to  
9 the contrary. To the extent permissible by law, the council  
10 shall develop and administer the early learning system  
11 established in section 302L-2 to benefit all children throughout  
12 the [~~State,~~] state, from birth until the time they enter  
13 kindergarten. In developing the early learning system, the  
14 council shall, among other things:

15           (1) Establish policies and procedures governing its  
16           operations;



- 1           (2)   Develop a plan, with goals and objectives, for the  
2           early learning system, including the development,  
3           execution, and monitoring of a phased implementation  
4           plan;
- 5           (3)   Coordinate, improve, and expand upon existing early  
6           learning programs and services for children from birth  
7           until the time they enter kindergarten;
- 8           (4)   Establish policies and procedures to include existing  
9           early learning programs and services;
- 10          (5)   Establish additional early learning programs and  
11          services;
- 12          (6)   Establish policies and procedures governing the  
13          inclusion of children with special needs;
- 14          (7)   Develop incentives to enhance the quality of programs  
15          and services within the early learning system;
- 16          (8)   Coordinate efforts to develop a highly-qualified,  
17          stable, and diverse workforce, including:
- 18                (A)   Ensuring that more early childhood educators and  
19                administrators, existing or potential, have  
20                opportunities to receive early childhood  
21                education degrees, including offering higher  
22                education scholarships;



- 1 (B) Increasing the availability of early childhood
- 2 education coursework, including distance learning
- 3 courses and community-based early childhood
- 4 education training;
- 5 (C) Providing access to continuing professional
- 6 development for all educators and administrators;
- 7 (D) Establishing a system for awarding appropriate
- 8 credentials to educators and administrators, as
- 9 incentives to improve the quality of programs and
- 10 services, relevant to the various early learning
- 11 approaches, service deliveries, and settings,
- 12 such as for experience or coursework or degrees
- 13 completed;
- 14 (E) Providing consultation on the social-emotional
- 15 development of children; and
- 16 (F) Providing substitute teacher allowances;
- 17 (9) Develop and implement methods of maximizing the
- 18 involvement of families, caregivers, and teachers in
- 19 the early learning system;
- 20 (10) Develop an effective, comprehensive, and integrated
- 21 system to provide training and technical support to



- 1 programs and services within the early learning  
2 system;
- 3 (11) Develop standards of accountability to ensure that  
4 high-quality early learning experiences are provided  
5 by programs and services of the early learning system;
- 6 (12) Collect, interpret, and release data relating to early  
7 learning in the [~~State;~~] state;
- 8 (13) Recommend the appropriate proportion of state funds  
9 that should be distributed to programs and services  
10 across the early learning system, to ensure the most  
11 effective and efficient allocation of fiscal resources  
12 within the early learning system;
- 13 (14) Develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior  
14 kindergarteners are addressed, including:
- 15 (A) Recommending an appropriate and effective  
16 curriculum;
- 17 (B) Establishing criteria for junior kindergarten  
18 teachers and aides;
- 19 (C) Incorporating Hawaii's preschool content  
20 standards for junior kindergarteners; and
- 21 (D) Recommending an effective transition from the  
22 early learning system to kindergarten that



1                    results in the phasing out of junior  
2                    kindergarten;

3        [~~14~~] (15) Promote awareness of early learning opportunities  
4                    to families and the general public; and

5        [~~15~~] (16) Consult with community groups, including  
6                    statewide organizations that are involved in early  
7                    learning professional development, policy and  
8                    advocacy, and early childhood programs, to broaden the  
9                    council's knowledge of early learning.

10            (b) The council shall consist of the following voting  
11 members:

12            (1) The superintendent of education or the  
13                    superintendent's designee;

14            (2) The director of human services or the director's  
15                    designee;

16            (3) The director of health or the director's designee;

17            (4) The president of the University of Hawaii or the  
18                    president's designee;

19            (5) A representative of center-based program providers[+] or the representative's designee;

21            (6) A representative of family child care program  
22                    providers[+] or the representative's designee;



1 (7) A representative of family-child interaction learning  
2 program providers[+] or the representative's designee;

3 (8) A representative of philanthropic organizations that  
4 support early learning[+and] or the representative's  
5 designee;

6 (9) A representative from a Head Start provider agency or  
7 the representative's designee; and

8 [+9+] (10) Two representatives of the Hawaii Council of  
9 Mayors[-] or the representatives' respective designee.

10 The council shall invite the director of the Hawaii head  
11 start state collaboration office, the chief executive officer of  
12 the Kamehameha Schools, and the executive director of the Hawaii  
13 Association of Independent Schools, or their designees, to serve  
14 as voting members of the council.

15 Except for the superintendent of education, directors of  
16 state departments, president of the University of Hawaii, ,  
17 director of the Hawaii head start state collaboration office,  
18 chief executive officer of the Kamehameha Schools, and executive  
19 director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, or  
20 their designees, and the two representatives of the Hawaii  
21 Council of Mayors, the members shall be nominated and, by and



1 with the advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the  
2 governor."

3 SECTION 3. Section 302L-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "[~~f~~]§302L-5[~~f~~] [~~Keiki first steps~~] Early learning trust  
6 fund. There is established within the state treasury the [~~keiki~~  
7 ~~first steps~~] early learning trust fund, to be administered by  
8 the early learning council, into which shall be deposited all  
9 moneys received by the council in the form of:

- 10 (1) Fees;
  - 11 (2) Grants;
  - 12 (3) Donations;
  - 13 (4) Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund;
  - 14 and
  - 15 (5) Revenues regardless of their source,
- 16 and earnings on moneys in the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be  
17 used for the early learning system. Expenditures from the fund  
18 may be made by the council without appropriation or allotment."

19 SECTION 4. Any fiscal year 2008-2009 general fund  
20 appropriations for comprehensive student support services (EDN  
21 150) that are designated for the early learning system under  
22 chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that are unexpended or



1 unencumbered by the end of fiscal year 2008-2009 shall lapse  
2 into the early learning trust fund on June 30, 2009.

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
6 provided that sections 3 and 4 shall take effect on June 29,  
7 2009.





**Report Title:**

Early Learning Council

**Description:**

Adds to the Early Learning Council (ELC) a representative from a Head Start provider agency or the representative's designee. Authorizes all ELC members to designate representatives for their role on the ELC. Requires the ELC, in its development of the early learning system, to develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed. Renames the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund as the Early Learning Trust Fund. Requires that any general fund appropriations for Comprehensive Student Support Services (EDN 150) designated for the early learning system that are unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year, lapse into the Fund on June 30, 2009. (SB1329 HD1)

