
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~~[+]~~
20 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, or their designees, the members shall be



1 nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the senate,
2 appointed by the 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. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



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. (SB1329 HD2)

