
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, launched
2 junior kindergarten beginning with the 2006-2007 school year,
3 with the intent to enable all children in Hawaii to succeed in
4 kindergarten and subsequent school experiences by addressing
5 their varying developmental and learning needs. The legislature
6 finds that thus far, only about one-third of the schools in the
7 state have adopted some variation of the junior kindergarten
8 program.

9 The intent of Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2008,
10 which established the State's early learning system known as
11 Keiki First Steps, was to integrate the cohort of children who
12 would otherwise attend junior kindergarten into the system over
13 time, because as the legislature continues to find, these
14 children may be placed more appropriately in a preschool
15 setting.

16 The purpose of this Act is to expedite this discussion by
17 requiring the department of education and early learning council
18 to work together on the development and submission of a plan to



1 the legislature for the integration of the cohort of children
2 who would otherwise attend junior kindergarten into the early
3 learning system.

4 SECTION 2. The department of education and early learning
5 council shall work together to develop a plan to integrate the
6 cohort of children who would otherwise attend junior
7 kindergarten into the early learning system. The plan shall
8 include the following components:

9 (1) How to assess the eligibility of children, including:

10 (A) Using criteria other than the chronological age
11 of a child; and

12 (B) As related to placement in appropriate early
13 learning settings;

14 (2) A timeline for implementation; and

15 (3) How to address the cost of implementation.

16 The department of education and early learning council
17 shall submit the plan, and proposed legislation, to the
18 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the 2011 regular session.

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Junior Kindergarten; Early Learning System; Integration Plan

Description:

Requires the Department of Education and Early Learning Council to work together on the development and submission of a plan to the Legislature for the integration of the cohort of children who would otherwise attend junior kindergarten into the early learning system. (SB2068 HD1)

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