
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 302A-411, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§302A-411** [~~Junior kindergarten and kindergarten~~
4 **Kindergarten program; establishment; attendance.** (a) The
5 department shall establish and maintain [~~junior kindergartens~~
6 ~~and~~] kindergartens with a program of instruction as a part of
7 the public school system; provided that:

8 (1) Attendance shall not be mandatory; [~~and~~]

9 (2) Charter schools shall be excluded from mandatory
10 participation in the program[~~;~~]; and

11 [~~(b) The department shall establish a two-tier junior~~
12 ~~kindergarten and kindergarten program to support the range of~~
13 ~~developmental abilities of children in junior kindergarten and~~
14 ~~kindergarten.~~]

15 (3) Schools shall not move students between [~~junior~~
16 ~~kindergarten and~~] kindergarten[~~;~~ ~~except in cases where~~

1 ~~the movement is warranted and based on] and grade one,~~
2 ~~without appropriate assessments [determined by:~~
3 ~~(1) A qualified teacher with early childhood education~~
4 ~~background or experience; and~~
5 ~~(2) The formative and summative assessment of a student's~~
6 ~~academic, physical, social, and emotional abilities,~~
7 ~~provided that, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the~~
8 ~~department shall use successful assessment tools and protocols~~
9 ~~for determining a student's initial placement and for decision~~
10 ~~making about a student's movement between tiers and into grade~~
11 ~~one. Junior kindergarten students may graduate directly to~~
12 ~~grade one when promotion is based on appropriate assessments and~~
13 ~~other progress data collected over time].~~

14 ~~[(c)]~~ (b) Beginning with the ~~[2004-2005]~~ 2011-2012 school
15 year, a child who will be at least five years of age on or
16 before ~~[December 31]~~ August 1 of the school year may attend a
17 public school kindergarten. ~~[Beginning with the 2006-2007~~
18 ~~school year, a child who will be at least five years of age on~~
19 ~~or before August 1 of the school year may attend a public school~~
20 ~~kindergarten. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, a child~~
21 ~~who will be at least five years of age after August 1 and before~~

1 ~~January 1 of the school year may attend a public school junior~~
2 ~~kindergarten.]~~

3 ~~[(d)]~~ (c) The department may accept gifts to establish and
4 maintain ~~[junior kindergartens and]~~ kindergartens."

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

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

- 16 (1) Establish policies and procedures governing its
17 operations;
- 18 (2) Develop a plan, with goals and objectives, for the
19 early learning system, including the development,
20 execution, and monitoring of a phased implementation
21 plan;

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

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

1 (12) Collect, interpret, and release data relating to early
2 learning in the State;

3 (13) Recommend the appropriate proportion of state funds
4 that should be distributed to programs and services
5 across the early learning system, to ensure the most
6 effective and efficient allocation of fiscal resources
7 within the early learning system;

8 [~~(14)~~] ~~Develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior~~
9 ~~kindergarteners are addressed, including:~~

10 ~~(A) Recommending an appropriate and effective~~
11 ~~curriculum;~~

12 ~~(B) Establishing criteria for junior kindergarten~~
13 ~~teachers and aides;~~

14 ~~(C) Incorporating Hawaii's preschool content~~
15 ~~standards for junior kindergarteners; and~~

16 ~~(D) Recommending an effective transition from the~~
17 ~~early learning system to kindergarten;~~

18 ~~(15)]~~ (14) Promote awareness of early learning
19 opportunities to families and the general public; and

20 [~~(16)]~~ (15) Consult with community groups, including
21 statewide organizations that are involved in early
22 learning professional development, policy and

1 advocacy, and early childhood programs, to broaden the
2 council's knowledge of early learning."

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

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Report Title:

Education; Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Program

Description:

Removes the provisions requiring the department of education to establish and maintain a public school junior kindergarten program. (SD2)

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