

JAN 25 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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 program;**
4 **establishment; attendance.** (a) The department shall establish
5 and maintain junior kindergartens through the 2012-2013 school
6 year and kindergartens with a program of instruction as a part
7 of 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.

11 (b) The department shall establish a two-tier junior
12 kindergarten and kindergarten program through the 2012-2013
13 school year to support the range of developmental abilities of
14 children in junior kindergarten and kindergarten. Schools shall
15 not move students between junior kindergarten and kindergarten,
16 except in cases where the movement is warranted and based on
17 appropriate assessments determined by:



1 (1) A qualified teacher with early childhood education
2 background or experience; and

3 (2) The formative and summative assessment of a student's
4 academic, physical, social, and emotional abilities,
5 provided that, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the
6 department shall use successful assessment tools and protocols
7 for determining a student's initial placement and for decision
8 making about a student's movement between tiers and into grade
9 one. Junior kindergarten students may graduate directly to
10 grade one when promotion is based on appropriate assessments and
11 other progress data collected over time.

12 (c) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, a child who
13 will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of
14 the school year may attend a public school kindergarten.
15 Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, a child who will be at
16 least five years of age on or before August 1 of the school year
17 may attend a public school kindergarten. Beginning with the
18 2006-2007 school year and through the 2012-2013 school year, a
19 child who will be at least five years of age after August 1 and
20 before January 1 of the school year may attend a public school
21 junior kindergarten.



1 (d) The department may accept gifts to establish and
2 maintain junior kindergartens through the 2012-2013 school year
3 and kindergartens.

4 (e) The provisions of this section relating to junior
5 kindergarten shall not be effective after the 2012-2013 school
6 year."

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

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

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



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



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



- 1 (11) Develop standards of accountability to ensure that
2 high-quality early learning experiences are provided
3 by programs and services of the early learning system;
- 4 (12) Collect, interpret, and release data relating to early
5 learning in the State;
- 6 (13) Recommend the appropriate proportion of state funds
7 that should be distributed to programs and services
8 across the early learning system, to ensure the most
9 effective and efficient allocation of fiscal resources
10 within the early learning system;
- 11 (14) Develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior
12 kindergarteners are addressed through the 2012-2013
13 school year, including:
- 14 (A) Recommending an appropriate and effective
15 curriculum;
- 16 (B) Establishing criteria for junior kindergarten
17 teachers and aides;
- 18 (C) Incorporating Hawaii's preschool content
19 standards for junior kindergarteners; and
- 20 (D) Recommending an effective transition from the
21 early learning system to kindergarten;



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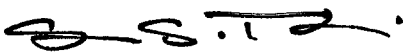
1 (15) Promote awareness of early learning opportunities to
2 families and the general public; and

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

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

10

INTRODUCED BY: 

Report Title:

Education; Junior Kindergarten

Description:

Repeals junior kindergartens beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. Limits the early learning council's responsibility for developing a plan to ensure the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed to run through the 2012-2013 school year.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

