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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many of Hawaii's  
2 children lack the fundamental skills they need when they enter  
3 kindergarten. According to the 2010 Hawaii State School  
4 Readiness Assessment, less than twenty-one per cent of Hawaii's  
5 public school kindergarten classes consistently displayed  
6 literacy concepts and skills necessary for success in school.  
7 This figure represents a drop of nearly four per cent from  
8 2009's Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment. The  
9 understanding of math concepts fared slightly better, with  
10 approximately twenty-three per cent of public school  
11 kindergarten classes consistently demonstrating these skills.  
12 However, this figure represents a drop of nearly seven per cent  
13 from 2009's Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment. These  
14 trends do not bode well for Hawaii's keiki.

15           Hawaii has long recognized the importance of early  
16 childhood development on future learning. Unfortunately, many  
17 services designed to help children succeed in school have been  
18 eliminated or drastically cut over the past two years. Without



1 proper funding for these programs, Hawaii's keiki will have a  
2 harder time reaching their full potential. *From Neurons to*  
3 *Neighborhoods*, a report developed by a committee of seventeen  
4 national experts in the fields of education, psychiatry,  
5 neuroscience, economics, and public policy, found that:

6 *[S]triking disparities in what children know and can*  
7 *do are evident well before they enter kindergarten.*  
8 *These differences are strongly associated with social*  
9 *and economic circumstances, and they are predictive of*  
10 *subsequent academic performance.*

11 Research has confirmed that a large gap exists between the  
12 academic abilities of children from high- and low-income  
13 families by age six; the latter "lag further behind in acquiring  
14 more sophisticated reading and math knowledge and skills such as  
15 recognizing words by sight or solving simple addition and  
16 subtraction problems" (National Child Care Association, 2002).  
17 Because many of Hawaii's children lack the fundamental skills  
18 they should have when they enter kindergarten, it is essential  
19 for the State to respond by funding programs designed to address  
20 school readiness and early childhood development.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to various  
2 early childhood development and school readiness programs and  
3 services in the State.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2012-2013 for the baby S.A.F.E. (substance abuse free  
9 environment) program.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of health for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2012-2013 for Hawaii's healthy start program.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2012-2013 for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder services.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2012-2013 for family planning services.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of health for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2012-2013 for early intervention services.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2012-2013 for perinatal health programs.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of health for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2012-2013 for parenting support programs.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of health for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2012-2013 for the preschool developmental screening  
17 program.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
19 of health for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
22 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2012-2013 for the keiki care project.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2012-2013 for child care and preschool subsidies.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 12. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2012-2013 for the preschool open doors program.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of human services for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 13. With respect to projects funded by the  
20 appropriations made in this Act, the comptroller, in making  
21 procurement decisions pursuant to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, shall give priority to projects that also receive non-  
2 state funding.

3 SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Keiki Caucus; Early Childhood; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for various early childhood and school readiness programs. Prioritizes, for purposes of procurement, projects that also receive non-state funding. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB926 HD1)

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

