
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
14 acquiring more sophisticated reading and math knowledge and
15 skills such as recognizing words by sight or solving simple
16 addition and subtraction problems" (National Child Care
17 Association, 2002). Because many of Hawaii's children lack the
18 fundamental skills they should have when they enter
19 kindergarten, it is essential for the State to respond by
20 funding programs designed to address school readiness and early
21 childhood development.



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

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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
22 year 2012-2013 for fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

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

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

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

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

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

17 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2012-2013 for perinatal health programs.

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

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

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

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

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

18 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
22 year 2012-2013 for the keiki care project.

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

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



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

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

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

17 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

18

INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Early Childhood; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for various early childhood and school readiness programs.

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