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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN.

**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.

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. Schools shall not move students between junior~~  
15 ~~kindergarten and kindergarten, except in cases where the~~  
16 ~~movement is warranted and based on appropriate assessments~~  
17 ~~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, a child who will be at least five years~~  
19 ~~of age after August 1 and before January 1 of the school year~~  
20 ~~may attend a public school junior kindergarten.]~~

21       (b) Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, a child who  
22 will be at least five years of age on the first day of



1 instruction may attend a public school kindergarten. Beginning  
2 with the 2014-2015 school year, the department shall not offer  
3 or maintain junior kindergartens.

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

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

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

- 17 (1) Establish policies and procedures governing its  
18 operations;
- 19 (2) Develop a plan, with goals and objectives, for the  
20 early learning system, including the development,  
21 execution, and monitoring of a phased implementation  
22 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 opportunities
- 19           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 on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:           T. Falan            
          Della A. Belotti          

JAN 11 2012



# H.B. NO. 1683

**Report Title:**

Junior Kindergarten

**Description:**

Eliminates junior kindergarten beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. Effective July 1, 2014.

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

