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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the early childhood  
2 years are critical to an individual's health, educational  
3 success, and well-being throughout the life span.

4           A large body of evidence ties experiences in early  
5 childhood with health throughout life, particularly in  
6 adulthood. For example, in 2011 the Institute of Medicine's  
7 Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention issued its  
8 "Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies", which recognized  
9 that early childhood has emerged as a critical period for  
10 assessing the beginnings of obesity and instituting preventive  
11 measures. Childhood obesity is a serious public health problem  
12 that has adverse and long-lasting consequences for individuals,  
13 families, and communities. Childhood obesity tends to persist  
14 into adulthood and increases the risk for chronic diseases,  
15 including diabetes. In Hawaii, adult obesity has more than  
16 doubled between 1995 and 2009, and childhood obesity increased  
17 by thirty-eight per cent between 1999 and 2009. As a result of  
18 the increased risks related to obesity, this generation of

1 children may be the first generation not to outlive their  
2 parents due to unhealthy lifestyles. Obesity-related medical  
3 expenditures in Hawaii were over \$323,000,000 in 2009, and are  
4 continuing to rise. Sedentary lifestyles combined with an  
5 excess of poor dietary choices, including the consumption of  
6 sugar-sweetened beverages, contribute to the rapid and steady  
7 increase in obesity in Hawaii. The establishment of unhealthy  
8 behaviors in a child's early years, such as drinking too many  
9 sugary drinks or being too sedentary, can set the stage for  
10 obesity and its related health problems.

11 To improve the health of Hawaii's people, we must promote  
12 healthy lifestyles from the earliest years that will continue  
13 throughout the life span. Preventing obesity in infants and  
14 young children holds promise for enabling significant gains  
15 toward both reversing the epidemic of childhood obesity and  
16 reducing obesity in adulthood.

17 SECTION 2. 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 2012 - 2013 to  
20 (1) collect and analyze Hawaii-specific early childhood  
21 overweight and obesity data to identify children at risk; (2)  
22 increase awareness of the health implications of early childhood

1 obesity; (3) promote best practices through community based  
2 initiatives to improve healthy life choices; and (4) establish a  
3 task force to develop and recommend legislation related to the  
4 prevention of childhood obesity.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
6 health.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Calvin K. Boy*

BY REQUEST  
JAN 23 2012

H.B. NO. 2516

**Report Title:**

Health; Early Childhood

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to support early childhood development.

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

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH

PURPOSE: To appropriate funds to the department of health to (1) collect and analyze Hawaii specific early childhood data and identify children at risk; (2) increase awareness of early childhood obesity; (3) promote best practices; and (4) establish a task force for the prevention of childhood obesity.

MEANS: Request for appropriation of funds for fiscal year 2012-2013.

JUSTIFICATION: Early childhood is a time to establish good health habits and identify health, behavioral, and developmental conditions. One very serious public health problem is the dramatic rise of young children who are overweight and obese. This is attributed to the establishment of unhealthy behaviors, such as drinking too many sugary drinks or being too sedentary. Childhood obesity also tends to persist into adulthood and increases the risk for chronic diseases, including diabetes. Obesity-related medical expenditures in Hawaii were over \$323,000,000 in 2009, and are continuing to increase.

Impact on the public: To improve the health of Hawaii's people, we must promote good nutrition, healthy lifestyles and prevent obesity in infants and young children. We must reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity, which will reduce obesity and chronic disease in adulthood and its related human and financial costs.

Impact on the department and other agencies:

This bill would provide funding for the department of health to: (1) collect and analyze Hawaii specific early childhood overweight and obesity data and identify children at risk; (2) increase awareness of the health implications of childhood obesity; (3) promote best practices through community based initiatives that improve healthy life choices; and (4) to establish a task force to develop and recommend legislation for the prevention of childhood obesity.

GENERAL FUNDS:

OTHER FUNDS:

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: Family Health Services Division

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012.