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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. Childhood obesity is a serious public health  
2 problem that has adverse and long-lasting consequences for  
3 individuals, families, and communities. Childhood obesity tends  
4 to persist into adulthood and increases the risk for chronic  
5 diseases, including diabetes. In Hawaii, adult obesity more  
6 than doubled between 1995 and 2009, and childhood obesity  
7 increased by thirty-eight per cent between 1999 and 2009.  
8 Obesity-related medical expenditures in Hawaii were over  
9 \$323,000,000 in 2009, and are continuing to rise.

10           Sedentary lifestyles combined with an excess of poor  
11 dietary choices, including the consumption of sugar-sweetened  
12 beverages, contribute to the rapid and steady increase in  
13 obesity in Hawaii. The establishment of unhealthy behaviors in  
14 a child's early years, such as drinking too many sugary drinks  
15 or being too sedentary, can also set the stage for obesity and  
16 its related health problems. As a result of the increased risks  
17 related to obesity, this generation of children may be the first



1 generation not to outlive their parents due to unhealthy  
2 lifestyles.

3       The legislature recognizes that the early childhood years  
4 are critical to an individual's health, educational success, and  
5 well-being throughout the life span. A large body of evidence  
6 ties experiences in early childhood with health throughout life,  
7 particularly in adulthood. For example, in 2011, the Institute  
8 of Medicine's Standing Committee on Childhood Obesity Prevention  
9 issued its "Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Policies" which  
10 indicates that early childhood has emerged as a critical period  
11 for assessing the beginnings of obesity and instituting  
12 preventive measures.

13       Promotion of healthy lifestyles from the earliest years  
14 throughout life is essential to good health. Preventing obesity  
15 in infants and young children holds great promise for achieving  
16 significant gains in reversing the epidemic of childhood obesity  
17 and reducing obesity in adulthood.

18       The Hawaii early intervention coordinating council,  
19 established in 1989, with its focus on early intervention  
20 services for infants and toddlers with special needs and their  
21 families, is an important stakeholder of early childhood  
22 intervention.



1           The purpose of this Act is to improve early childhood  
2 health by increasing awareness of early childhood obesity and  
3 strengthening existing supports for early childhood  
4 intervention.

5           SECTION 2. Section 321-353, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7           "**§321-353 Hawaii early intervention coordinating council;**  
8 **establishment.** (a) There is established within the department  
9 for administrative purposes the Hawaii early intervention  
10 coordinating council. Members shall be appointed for three-year  
11 terms by the governor without the necessity of the advice and  
12 consent of the senate. The [~~membership of the~~] council shall  
13 [~~consist of fifteen~~] comprise twenty-two members [~~selected from~~  
14 ~~the following:~~] as follows:

15           (1) At least [~~three~~] twenty per cent of the members shall  
16 be parents of infants, toddlers[~~7~~] with special needs,  
17 or children [~~under the age of seven~~] with special  
18 needs[~~7~~] aged twelve years or younger, with knowledge  
19 of, or experience with, programs for infants and  
20 toddlers with special needs; provided that at least  
21 one parent shall be a parent of an infant or toddler



- 1           with special needs or of a child with special needs  
2           aged six years or younger;
- 3           (2) At least ~~[three]~~ twenty per cent of the members shall  
4           be public or private providers of early intervention  
5           services;
- 6           (3) ~~[At least one representative]~~ One member shall be from  
7           the legislature;
- 8           (4) ~~[At least one person]~~ One member shall be involved in  
9           personnel preparation;
- 10          (5) One member shall be from the department of health  
11          program that is involved in the provision of, or  
12          payment for, early intervention services to infants  
13          and toddlers with special needs and their families,  
14          and that has sufficient authority to engage in policy  
15          planning and implementation on behalf of the program;
- 16          (6) One member shall be from the department of health  
17          program responsible for children's mental health;
- 18          ~~[(5) At least one]~~ (7) One member ~~[representing]~~ shall be  
19          from the department of education~~[+]~~ program that is  
20          responsible for preschool services to children with  
21          disabilities and that has sufficient authority to



1 engage in policy planning and implementation on behalf  
2 of the program;

3 (8) One member shall be from the department of education  
4 program responsible for the coordination of education  
5 of homeless children and youth;

6 ~~[(+6) At least one]~~ (9) One member [representing] shall be  
7 from the department of human services[+] program  
8 responsible for the state medicaid program;

9 (10) One member shall be from the department of human  
10 services program responsible for child care;

11 (11) One member shall be from the department of human  
12 services program responsible for foster care;

13 (12) One member shall be the insurance commissioner or the  
14 insurance commissioner's designee;

15 (13) One member shall be from a Head Start or Early Head  
16 Start agency or program in the State;

17 ~~[(+7) At least one member representing the office of the~~  
18 ~~governor,] and~~

19 ~~[(+8)]~~ (14) Other members [representing private or public  
20 agencies involved in] that are involved or interested  
21 in [the payment for or provision of] services to



1 infants and toddlers with special needs and their  
2 families[-] and who are selected by the governor.

3 Any vacancy on the council shall be filled in the same  
4 manner in which the original position was filled.

5 (b) The council shall elect its officers, and [~~eight~~]  
6 twelve members shall constitute a quorum. Members shall serve  
7 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,  
8 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of  
9 their duties. No member shall cast a vote on any matter that is  
10 likely to provide a direct financial benefit to that member or  
11 otherwise give the appearance of a conflict of interest. A  
12 member from the department of health may not serve as the  
13 chairperson of the council.

14 (c) The council shall meet at least quarterly and in such  
15 places as it deems necessary. The meetings shall be publicly  
16 announced, and be open and accessible to the general public.

17 (d) The council shall perform the following functions:

18 (1) Advise and assist the director in the identification  
19 of the sources of fiscal and other support for  
20 services for early intervention programs, assignment  
21 of financial responsibility to the appropriate agency,  
22 and the promotion of the interagency agreements;



1 (2) Advise and assist the department in the preparation of  
2 applications and amendments thereto; [~~and~~]

3 (3) Advise and assist the department of education  
4 regarding the transition of toddlers with special  
5 needs to preschool and other appropriate services; and

6 [~~+3+~~] (4) Prepare and submit an annual report to the  
7 governor on the status of early intervention programs  
8 for infants and toddlers with special needs and their  
9 families within the State."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to:

13 (1) Collect and analyze Hawaii-specific early childhood  
14 overweight and obesity data to identify children at  
15 risk;

16 (2) Increase awareness of the health implications of early  
17 childhood obesity;

18 (3) Promote best practices through community based  
19 initiatives to improve healthy life choices; and

20 (4) Establish a task force to develop and recommend  
21 legislation related to the prevention of childhood  
22 obesity.



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

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
4 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2012.





**Report Title:**

Health; Early Childhood

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Health to support early childhood development. Addresses a housekeeping issue regarding the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council to ensure compliance with current federal requirements for the council.  
(HB2516 HD1)

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

