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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING.

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

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

5           Research has found that over eighty-five per cent of a  
6 child's brain development, in response to the stimulation the  
7 child receives, happens by age five. Children's early  
8 experiences, from birth to age five, lay the groundwork for a  
9 child's lifelong learning and behavior. Studies have shown that  
10 high quality preschool programs directly impact children's  
11 ability to be ready for school. There is now evidence that high  
12 quality preschool, along with full-day kindergarten maximize the  
13 chances of children having strong third grade reading results.

14           In addition, research finds that investing in high quality  
15 early learning programs produces significant returns later. In  
16 Hawaii, every \$1 spent in high quality early childhood education  
17 realizes a \$4.20 reduction in costs for future educational and  
18 social interventions. In 2011, the department of education

1 reported that state-wide about forty-two per cent of Hawaii's  
2 public school kindergarten students did not attend preschool.  
3 In a November 27, 2011, Hawaii Star Advertiser article, it was  
4 reported that elementary school principals and child advocates  
5 say kindergarteners without preschool experience are more likely  
6 to enter school far behind their peers.

7 To improve the educational outcomes of Hawaii's people, we  
8 must promote our children's school readiness, through high  
9 quality early learning experiences, starting with high quality  
10 preschool that is affordable and accessible. High quality  
11 preschool will not only lead to better educational outcomes in  
12 kindergarten and third grade, it will also reduce costs for  
13 educational and social interventions later.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \_\_\_\_\_, or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012 - 2013, to  
17 provide funding to continue to develop and implement Hawaii's  
18 school readiness agenda. This funding is needed for the early  
19 learning council and the governor's early childhood coordinator  
20 to further develop and implement the components of our State's  
21 comprehensive early childhood system and to develop, execute,  
22 and monitor a phased implementation plan for a public-private

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1 preschool program for four-year olds, including a financial  
2 business plan with potential sources of sustainable revenue.  
3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
4 education.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Calvin K. King

BY REQUEST

JAN 23 2012

H.B. NO. 2519

**Report Title:**

Education; Early Childhood

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education.

*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: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING

PURPOSE: To appropriate funds to the department of education for the Early Learning Council and the State Early Childhood Coordinator to further develop and implement the components of our state's comprehensive early childhood system and to develop, execute and monitor a phased implementation plan for a public-private preschool program for four year olds.

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

JUSTIFICATION: Research has found that over 85 percent of a child's brain development, in response to the stimulation the child receives, happens by age five. Children's early learning experiences directly impact their readiness for school. Recent studies also find that high quality preschool, along with full day kindergarten maximize the chances of children having strong third grade reading results.

In 2011, Hawaii's Department of Education reported that state-wide about 42 percent of Hawaii's public school kindergarten students did not attend preschool. Hawaii's educators report that kindergarteners without preschool experience are more likely far behind their peers when they enter school. Studies also found that investing in early childhood produces significant returns later. In Hawaii, every \$1 spent in high quality early childhood education realizes a \$4.20 reduction in costs for future educational and social interventions.

Impact on the public: To improve the educational outcomes of Hawaii's people, we must promote our children's school readiness, through high quality preschool that is affordable and accessible. High quality preschool will not only lead to better educational outcomes, it will also reduce costs for educational and social interventions later.

Impact on the department and other agencies:

This bill would provide funding for the department of education to continue to develop and implement Hawaii's school readiness agenda. This funding is for the Early Learning Council and the Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator to further develop and implement the components of our state's comprehensive early childhood system and to develop, execute and monitor a phased implementation plan for a public-private preschool program, for four year olds, including how the program would be funded.

GENERAL FUNDS:

OTHER FUNDS:

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION:

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES:

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012