
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 long-term health and educational success.

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

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



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

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

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to provide
16 funding for the early learning council and the governor's early
17 childhood coordinator to further develop and implement a
18 comprehensive early childhood system and to develop, execute,
19 and monitor a phased implementation plan for a public-private
20 preschool program for four-year olds, including a financial
21 business plan with potential sources of sustainable revenue.



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

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



Report Title:

Education; Early Childhood

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education. Effective July 1, 2012. (HB2519 HD1)

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

