
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING 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 impact school readiness.
10 There is now evidence that high quality preschool programs,
11 along with full-day kindergarten classes, maximize the chances
12 of children having strong third grade reading results.

13 In addition, research finds that investing in high quality
14 early learning programs produces significant returns. 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 statewide, approximately forty-two per cent of



1 Hawaii's public school kindergarten students did not attend
2 preschool. In a November 27, 2011, Honolulu Star-Advertiser
3 article, it was reported that elementary school principals and
4 child advocates believe that kindergarteners without preschool
5 experience are more likely to enter school far behind their
6 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 and beginning with high
10 quality preschool that is affordable and accessible. High
11 quality preschool will not only lead to better educational
12 outcomes in kindergarten and third grade, it will also reduce
13 costs for subsequent educational and social interventions.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to further
15 the development and implementation of a comprehensive early
16 childhood system and preschool program.

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 provide funding for the early learning council and the
21 governor's early childhood coordinator to further develop and
22 implement a comprehensive early childhood system and to develop,



1 execute, and monitor a phased implementation plan for a public-
2 private preschool program for four-year olds, including a
3 financial business plan with potential sources of sustainable
4 revenue.

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

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Education; Early Childhood

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2519 HD2)

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