

H.B. NO. 913

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish early  
2 learning wellness guidelines to increase adoption of healthy  
3 habits early in life for young children who attend licensed and  
4 license-exempt early learning programs.

5 Early learning programs can play an integral part in  
6 children's development by providing good nutrition, and by  
7 offering physical activity and other learning opportunities that  
8 contribute to school readiness and a successful future.

9 The State, in collaboration with stakeholders, shall  
10 develop guidelines that will be consistent with the current  
11 department of education wellness guidelines to promote and  
12 support healthy learning environments in Hawaii's public  
13 schools.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
16 to read as follows:

17 "PART . EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROGRAMS  
18 WELLNESS GUIDELINES

1           §346- Early learning wellness guidelines. (a) The  
2 department of health shall, in partnership with the early  
3 learning council, the department of human services, and the  
4 department of education, establish early learning wellness  
5 guidelines applicable to all programs and services of the early  
6 learning system that, at a minimum:

7           (1) Include goals for nutritious foods, health education,  
8           physical activity, and other activities designed to  
9           promote childhood wellness;

10          (2) Are consistent with the State of Hawaii Wellness  
11          Guidelines for the department of education schools;  
12          Shall be sensitive to family choice and cultural  
13          diversity;

14          (3) Establish plans for the adoption and dissemination of  
15          the early learning wellness guidelines, as well as  
16          the monitoring and measurement of the implementation  
17          of the guidelines in the early learning system  
18          programs and services; and

19          (4) Are provided in such a manner as to be consistent with  
20          the specific needs and requirements of local early  
21          childhood education and care agencies.

22          (b) Involves in the development of the learning wellness  
23          guidelines representatives from:

- 1 (1) The office of the governor;
- 2 (2) The department of education;
- 3 (3) The department of health;
- 4 (4) The department of human services;
- 5 (5) The early learning council;
- 6 (6) The Hawaii Association for the Education of Young
- 7 Children;
- 8 (7) The Good Beginnings Alliance;
- 9 (8) People Attentive to Children;
- 10 (9) Institutions of higher education; and
- 11 (10) Representatives from child care providers, family
- 12 child interaction learning programs, home based child
- 13 care, family child care, parents, students, and the
- 14 public.
- 15 (c) The department of health shall establish the early
- 16 learning wellness guidelines no later than June 30, 2014.
- 17 (d) The department of health shall distribute copies of
- 18 the early learning guidelines to at least the following:
- 19 (1) The office of the governor;
- 20 (2) The president of the senate;
- 21 (3) The speaker of the house of representatives;
- 22 (4) The director of human services;
- 23 (5) The chairperson of the early learning council;

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- 1 (6) The superintendent of education;
- 2 (7) The president of the University of Hawaii; and
- 3 (8) The mayor of each county.
- 4 (e) The early learning wellness guidelines shall serve as
- 5 guidance only, and shall not be construed as binding upon, or as
- 6 a mandate to, early learning system and services.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, or so  
 9 much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2013-2014 to:

- 10 (1) Fund meetings to bring necessary stakeholders together
- 11 to develop early learning wellness guidelines;
- 12 (2) Oversee implementation of early learning wellness
- 13 guidelines; and
- 14 (3) Provide training on early learning wellness guidelines
- 15 to early learning system providers on the early
- 16 learning wellness guidelines.

17 SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
 18 department of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect  
 20 on July 1, 2013.

21 INTRODUCED BY:   
 22 BY REQUEST

JAN 22 2013

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**Report Title:**

Early Learning Wellness Guidelines; Child Care Centers

**Description:**

Establishes non-binding early childhood education and care program wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed early childhood and childcare programs.

*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: Human Services

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINES.

PURPOSE: To establish early learning wellness guidelines for young children who attend early learning systems programs including childhood programs to increase formation of healthy habits early in life.

MEANS: Add new part to chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: Early childhood education and care programs should provide a safe and healthy learning environment that promotes development of healthy young children. These programs can play an integral part in children's development by providing good nutrition, and by offering physical activity and other learning opportunities that contribute to school readiness and a successful future.

Early learning wellness guidelines will provide young children with opportunities to develop healthy habits early in life. The development of early learning wellness guidelines shall be consistent with the current department of education wellness guidelines that promote and support healthy learning environments in Hawaii's public schools.

Impact on the public: Implementation of guidelines will increase public, parent, and teacher awareness of optimal early childhood health norms, potentially leading to a decrease in child, adolescent, and adult obesity and related chronic disease and adverse health conditions.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Task force participation.

GENERAL FUND: General fund appropriation request of  
\$\_\_\_\_\_.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: HTH-590.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: Department of Health, Department of Human  
Services, Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013.