
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS
GUIDELINES.

1 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
2 Education, the years from birth through age eight are the most
3 critical for brain development, and significant evidence from
4 research and evaluation demonstrate that participation in high-
5 quality early learning programs will lead to both short- and
6 long-term positive outcomes for all children, especially those
7 with high needs; and
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9 WHEREAS, early learning programs play an integral part in
10 children's development by providing good nutrition and offering
11 physical activity and other learning opportunities that
12 contribute to school readiness and a successful future; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Early Learning was
15 established in 2012 to coordinate efforts on behalf of young
16 children, prenatal to age eight, by creating partnerships and
17 alignment of policies and programs to achieve improved outcomes
18 in health, safety, school readiness, and success; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Early Learning indicates
21 that continuing research affirms the positive effects of high-
22 quality early learning programs on the physical, cognitive,
23 linguistic, social, emotional, and economic outcomes of young
24 children; and
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26 WHEREAS, establishing early learning wellness guidelines
27 will increase the likelihood that young children who attend
28 early learning programs will adopt healthy habits early in life;
29 now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2013, that the Department of Health is requested to
4 convene a task force, in partnership with the Executive Office
5 on Early Learning and the Department of Education, to establish
6 early learning wellness guidelines; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the task
9 force comprise:

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11 (1) The Director of Health or the Director's designee;
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13 (2) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
14 designee;
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16 (3) The Superintendent of Education or the
17 Superintendent's designee;
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19 (4) The Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning
20 or the Director's designee; and
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22 (5) Three individuals with a background or interest in
23 early childhood education and are appointed by the
24 Governor; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members select
27 one of the task force members to serve as chairperson of the
28 task force; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the early learning wellness
31 guidelines be applicable to all programs and services of the
32 State's early learning system and the guidelines, at a minimum:
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- 34 (1) Include goals for nutritious foods, health education,
35 physical activity, and other activities designed to
36 promote childhood wellness;
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38 (2) Are consistent with the State of Hawaii Wellness
39 Guidelines for Department of Education schools;
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41 (3) Are sensitive to family choice and cultural diversity;



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(4) Establish plans for the adoption and dissemination of the early learning wellness guidelines as well as monitor and measure the implementation of the guidelines in early learning system programs and services; and

(5) Are provided in a manner so as to be consistent with the specific needs and requirements of early childhood education and care agencies in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including the early learning wellness guidelines, to the Legislature no later than 20 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on June 30, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Director of Human Services, Superintendent of Education, and Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning.

OFFERED BY:

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