

JAN 24 2013

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to implement, upon
2 its ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the
3 Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early
4 childhood education program consisting of providers of high-
5 quality early childhood education to assist families in
6 establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that
7 children graduate from high school prepared for college and a
8 career.

9 Significant research affirms the positive effects of high-
10 quality early childhood education programs on the physical,
11 cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional outcomes of young
12 children.

13 For example, early childhood education is one way to reduce
14 high school dropout rates. A report released by the Annie E.
15 Casey Foundation in 2011 found that students who do not read
16 proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop
17 out of school without a diploma, when compared to proficient
18 readers. The number increases when those students come from

1 low-income families. After third grade, students are using
2 their reading skills to learn other subjects, and if they do not
3 have the skills by then, they will be faced with enormous
4 challenges.

5 Provided with opportunities for early childhood education,
6 children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond,
7 and more likely to grow into healthy, capable, and contributing
8 adults. Research emphasizes that high-quality programs are
9 necessary to produce positive outcomes for children, both in the
10 near- and long-term. Studies have proven that high-quality
11 early childhood education programs are especially effective for
12 at-risk children, including low-income and otherwise
13 disadvantaged children, with the great potential to alter their
14 lifetime trajectories for success.

15 Well-executed and well-targeted early childhood education
16 programs have immediate and long-term benefits not only for the
17 children participating in the programs, but also for the
18 societies in which they live, as determined by seminal studies
19 such as those conducted of the HighScope and Chicago Parent-
20 Child Centers programs. Societies that invest in such programs
21 boast of higher levels of educational attainment; reduced
22 homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and
23 better overall social and economic well-being. A 2008 study

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1 commissioned by the Good Beginnings Alliance found that every
2 dollar invested today in high-quality early childhood education
3 for Hawaii generates more than four dollars in future savings
4 and increased earnings through state, federal, and social
5 benefits.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§302L- Early childhood education program. (a) There
10 is established within the early learning system an early
11 childhood education program to be administered by the executive
12 office on early learning. The program shall:

- 13 (1) Prepare children for school; and
- 14 (2) Provide access to high-quality early childhood
15 education that addresses children's physical,
16 cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional
17 development.

18 (b) The program shall serve three- and four-year-old
19 children, with priority for:

- 20 (1) Four-year-old children; and
- 21 (2) Underserved or at-risk children.

22 Families may enroll their children in the program on a voluntary
23 basis.

1 Families shall share in the costs of the program through a
2 copayment according to a sliding fee scale that is based on need
3 and through fulfillment of family participation requirements,
4 pursuant to rules adopted by the office.

5 The program shall not serve children who are enrolled in or
6 eligible for public elementary education.

7 (c) The office may contract with eligible providers of
8 early childhood education to increase the capacity of the
9 program to provide high-quality early childhood education to
10 children across the State. Eligible providers shall meet, or
11 develop plans to meet, the standards established under the
12 program pursuant to rules adopted by the office. The office may
13 provide support to providers to meet these standards.

14 Contract payments shall be made to the providers.

15 (d) The program standards shall:

16 (1) Include research-based, developmentally appropriate
17 practices that are associated with better educational
18 outcomes for children, such as one teacher with a
19 bachelor's degree with twelve credits in early
20 childhood education or child development, curriculum
21 aligned with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development
22 Standards, and individual assessments of children
23 based on all areas of childhood development and

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1 learning including cognitive, linguistic, social-
2 emotional approaches to learning, health, and physical
3 development; and

4 (2) Align with the state content and performance standards
5 for grades kindergarten to twelve to facilitate a
6 seamless and high-quality educational experience for
7 children.


8 (e) The office shall coordinate with other agencies and
9 programs to facilitate comprehensive services for early
10 childhood education.

11 (f) The office shall collect data to evaluate services
12 provided, inform sound policy, and improve the provision of
13 early childhood education through the program.

14 (g) The office may adopt rules necessary to carry out the
15 purposes of this section."

16 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon ratification of
19 the constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of
20 public funds for private early childhood education programs.

21
22 INTRODUCED BY: 

23 BY REQUEST

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Report Title:

Early Childhood Education Program

Description:

Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

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: OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

PURPOSE: To implement, upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

MEANS: Add a new section to chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Significant research affirms the positive effects of high-quality early childhood education programs on the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional outcomes of young children.

Provided with such opportunities, children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond, and more likely to grow into healthy, capable, and contributing adults. Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs are especially effective for at-risk children, including low-income and otherwise disadvantaged children, with the great potential to alter their lifetime trajectories for success.

Well-executed and well-targeted early childhood education programs have immediate and long-term benefits not only for the children participating in the programs, but also for the societies in which they live. Societies that invest in such programs boast

higher levels of educational attainment; reduced homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and better overall social and economic well-being. A 2008 study commissioned by the Good Beginnings Alliance found that every dollar invested today in high-quality early childhood education for Hawaii generates more than four dollars in future savings and increased earnings through state, federal, and social benefits.

Impact on the public: This bill will be beneficial to the public because it will provide an early childhood education program for the children of Hawaii.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This bill will impact the Executive Office on Early Learning since it will be responsible for implementing the early childhood education program, consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education. This bill may also impact the Department of Education because the program may be offered on public school campuses.

GENERAL FUND: Yes.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: None.

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: Executive Office of Early Learning and Hawaii Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon ratification of the constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs.