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# 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 establish a  
2 statewide early childhood education program consisting of  
3 providers of high-quality early childhood education, delivered  
4 in either of Hawaii's two official languages, to assist families  
5 in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that  
6 children graduate from high school prepared for college and a  
7 career; provided that Senate Bill No. 1084, introduced in the  
8 regular session of 2013, which amends article X, section 1, of  
9 the Hawaii state constitution, to permit the appropriation of  
10 public funds for private early childhood education programs, is  
11 enacted and ratified.

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

16           For example, early childhood education is one way to reduce  
17 high-school dropout rates. A report released by the Annie E.  
18 Casey Foundation, released in 2011 and updated in 2012, found



1 that students who do not read proficiently by third grade are  
2 four times more likely to drop out of school without a diploma,  
3 when compared to their counterparts who are proficient readers.  
4 The number increases when those students come from low-income  
5 families. After third grade, students use their reading skills  
6 to learn other subjects, and students who do not have such  
7 skills by that time are faced with enormous challenges.

8       When provided with opportunities for early childhood  
9 education, children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten  
10 and beyond and more likely to grow into healthy and capable  
11 adults who contribute positively to the larger community.  
12 Research emphasizes that high-quality programs are necessary to  
13 produce positive outcomes for children, both in the near- and  
14 long-term. Studies have shown that high-quality early childhood  
15 education programs are especially effective for at-risk  
16 children, including children from low-income families and  
17 otherwise disadvantaged children, with great potential to alter  
18 their lifetime trajectories for success.

19       Well-executed and well-targeted early childhood education  
20 programs have immediate and long-term benefits not only for the  
21 children participating in the programs but also for the  
22 societies in which they live, as determined by seminal studies



1 such as those conducted by the HighScope and Chicago Parent-  
2 Child Centers programs. Societies that invest in such programs  
3 realize higher levels of educational attainment; reductions in  
4 homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and  
5 better overall social and economic well-being. A 2008 study  
6 commissioned by the Good Beginnings Alliance found that every  
7 dollar invested today in high-quality early childhood education  
8 for Hawaii generates more than four dollars in future savings  
9 and increased earnings through state, federal, and social  
10 benefits.

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

14 "§302L- Early childhood education program. (a) There  
15 is established within the early learning system an early  
16 childhood education program to be administered by the office.

17 The early childhood education program shall:

18 (1) Through either of the state's two official languages,  
19 prepare children for school and active participation  
20 in society; and

21 (2) Provide equitable access to high-quality early  
22 childhood education that addresses children's



1           physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional  
2           development.

3           (b) The early childhood education program shall serve  
4 three- and four-year-old children, with priority extended to:

5           (1) Four-year-old children; and

6           (2) Underserved or at-risk children.

7           (c) Enrollment in the early childhood education program  
8 shall be voluntary. A parent or legal guardian shall share in  
9 the costs of the program through a copayment according to a  
10 sliding fee scale that is based on need and through fulfillment  
11 of family participation requirements, pursuant to rules adopted  
12 by the office. A child who is enrolled in or eligible to attend  
13 a public elementary school shall not be eligible for enrollment  
14 in the early childhood education program.

15           (d) The office may contract with eligible providers, which  
16 may include private providers, of early childhood education to  
17 increase the capacity of the early childhood education program  
18 to provide high-quality early childhood education to children  
19 across the State. Eligible providers shall meet, or develop  
20 plans to meet, the Hawaiian or English language medium education  
21 standards, as applicable, established under the early childhood  
22 education program pursuant to rules adopted by the office. The



1 office may provide support to providers to meet these standards.  
2 Eligible providers shall comply with all applicable state and  
3 federal laws.

4 (e) The early childhood education program standards shall:

5 (1) Include research-based, developmentally appropriate  
6 practices that are associated with better educational  
7 outcomes for children, such as hiring teachers who  
8 possess a bachelor's degree with not less than twelve  
9 credits in early childhood education or child  
10 development; curriculum aligned with the Hawaii early  
11 learning and development standards; and individual  
12 assessments of children, based upon all areas of  
13 childhood development and learning, including  
14 cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional  
15 approaches to learning and health and physical  
16 development; and

17 (2) Align with the state content and performance standards  
18 for grades kindergarten to twelve to facilitate a  
19 seamless and high-quality educational experience for  
20 children.



1       (f) The office shall coordinate with other agencies and  
2 programs to facilitate comprehensive services for early  
3 childhood education.

4       (g) The office shall collect data to evaluate services  
5 provided, inform sound policy, and improve the provision of  
6 early childhood education through the early childhood education  
7 program.

8       (h) The office shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91  
9 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including  
10 compliance with all applicable state and federal laws."

11       SECTION 3. Section 302L-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
13 and to read as follows:

14       "Early childhood education program" means an education  
15 program for children provided for in section 302L- ."

16       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$        or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the  
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
20 2014-2015 for the purpose of establishing a statewide early  
21 childhood education program.



1           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
2 office on early learning for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 5.   New statutory material is underscored.

4           SECTION 6.   This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030,  
5 upon ratification of the constitutional amendment proposed in  
6 S.B. No. 1084, Regular Session of 2013, permitting the  
7 appropriation of public funds for private early childhood  
8 education; provided that section 4 shall take effect on July 1,  
9 2030.



**Report Title:**

Early Childhood Education Program

**Description:**

Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System. Effective July 1, 2030. (SB1095 HD2)

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

