
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to ensure the
2 permanent continuation of the junior kindergarten program, which
3 is scheduled to be repealed on July 1, 2014, pursuant to Act
4 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

5 SECTION 2. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is
6 amended by repealing section 3, which amends section 302A-411,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to repeal the junior kindergarten
8 program.

9 SECTION 3. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is
10 amended by amending section 1 to read as follows:

11 "SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the period from
12 birth to age five is the most crucial period of learning in a
13 child's life. This is when over eighty-five per cent of a
14 person's brain development takes place. Early life experiences
15 lay the groundwork for a child's lifelong learning and behavior.
16 The legislature further finds that high quality early learning
17 programs that are affordable and accessible for all children are
18 critically important for ensuring the success of Hawaii's keiki.



1 In addition, the significant, long-term benefits realized
2 through investments in high-quality, early learning systems have
3 been established through decades of research. Many studies show
4 the importance of early childhood education. For example, a
5 federal Department of Education study reports that children
6 enrolled in kindergarten increase their knowledge and skills
7 regardless of development prior to enrollment. Kindergarteners
8 are expected to leave kindergarten knowing how to read and
9 write. First graders who did not go to kindergarten are
10 typically developmentally behind their peers in academic and
11 social development and are more likely to fail a grade level in
12 elementary school.

13 The purpose of this Act is, among other things, to:

- 14 (1) Establish the executive office on early learning;
- 15 (2) Establish the early learning advisory board to replace
16 the early learning council;
- 17 ~~+(3) Repeal junior kindergarten programs at the end of the~~
18 ~~2013-2014 school year;~~
- 19 +(4)] (3) Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, require
20 students to be at least five years of age on July 31
21 of the school year in order to attend kindergarten;



1 [~~5~~] (4) Make an appropriation to the executive office on
2 early learning; and

3 [~~6~~] (5) Require an implementation plan and projected
4 financials in order to ensure a seamless transition
5 from the junior kindergarten program to the keiki
6 first steps program in the 2014-2015 school year."

7 SECTION 4. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, is
8 amended by amending section 15 to read as follows:

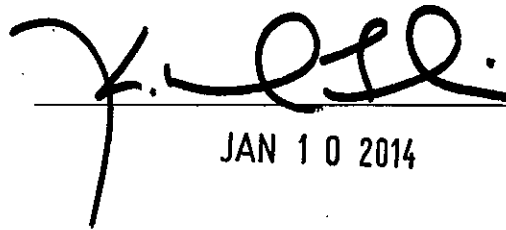
9 "SECTION 15. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012[~~7~~
10 ~~provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,~~
11 ~~2014]."~~

12 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 2014.

15

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 10 2014



H.B. NO. 1578

Report Title:

Junior Kindergarten

Description:

Deletes the repeal of junior kindergarten, scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2014, pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

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

