
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that more of our children
2 are entering kindergarten without the physical, cognitive,
3 linguistic, social, and emotional skills expected to prepare
4 them for success in school life. For example, only forty per
5 cent of kindergarten classes had the majority of their students
6 entering the 2012-2013 school year with school behaviors and
7 skills, and even fewer demonstrated the necessary approaches to
8 learning, according to the Hawaii State School Readiness
9 Assessment.

10 It is no coincidence the Hawaii State School Readiness
11 Assessment also reports that fifty-seven per cent of students
12 who entered kindergarten had attended preschool. This is a
13 lower percentage than in years past. According to kindergarten
14 teachers in the department of education, many of the children
15 who do not have experiences in pre-kindergarten programs could
16 be eighteen to twenty-four months behind in development than
17 their peers who do. The link between school readiness and
18 success in school is indisputable. Act 13, Session Laws of

1 Hawaii 2002, defined school readiness as "young children are
2 ready to have successful learning experiences in school when
3 there is a positive interaction among the child's developmental
4 characteristics, school practices, and family and community
5 support."

6 The State must expend efforts to promote school readiness,
7 especially in light of its expectation that kindergarten
8 students master the grade-level Common Core State Standards to
9 develop the academic competencies and habits of mind necessary
10 for college and career success.

11 The legislature through Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii
12 2012, repealed the junior kindergarten program and delayed the
13 change in kindergarten entry age to the 2014-2015 school year; a
14 child must be five years old by July 31 of the school year. The
15 legislature's intent was to align the changes with the
16 implementation of a program that would more effectively provide
17 a developmentally appropriate experience to prepare children
18 physically, cognitively, linguistically, socially, and
19 emotionally prior to beginning the public education provided by
20 the department of education.

21 The program must be in place by 2014 to serve the children
22 who will be affected by the change in kindergarten eligibility -
23 those born August 1 to December 31.

1 The purpose of this Act is to establish a statewide school
2 readiness program consisting of providers of school readiness
3 services to assist families in preparing their children for
4 success in school. The statewide school readiness program will
5 be administered by the executive office on early learning and is
6 a major component of the early learning system established
7 pursuant to section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

11 "§302L- School readiness program. (a) There is
12 established within the early learning system a school readiness
13 program to be administered by the executive office on early
14 learning. The school readiness program shall:

- 15 (1) Prepare children for school;
16 (2) Provide access to school readiness services that
17 address children's physical, cognitive, linguistic,
18 social, and emotional development; and
19 (3) Assist low- and moderate-income families.

20 The program shall not provide any instructional services that
21 supplant or duplicate the academic program of any public or
22 private school that is established for the purpose of compliance
23 with section 302A-1132.

1 (b) The program shall serve four-year-old children, with
2 priority for:

3 (1) Children who are not eligible to attend public school
4 kindergarten in the calendar year they turn five years
5 of age because their birthdates occur after the July
6 31 cut-off for kindergarten eligibility; and

7 (2) Underserved or at-risk children.

8 Families may enroll their children in the program on a voluntary
9 basis.

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

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

16 (c) The office may contract with eligible providers of
17 school readiness services to increase the capacity of the
18 program to provide school readiness services to children across
19 the state. Eligible providers shall:

20 (1) Either be the department of education or licensed by
21 the department of human services to provide child care
22 under part VIII of chapter 346; and

1 (2) Meet the standards established under the program
2 pursuant to rules adopted by the office, which include
3 qualifications for staff who work with children and
4 data collection regarding participating children. The
5 office may provide support to providers to meet these
6 standards.

7 For the purposes of this program, eligible providers are
8 not deemed to be educational institutions.

9 (d) The office may adopt rules necessary to carry out the
10 purposes of this section."

11 SECTION 3. Section 26-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "**§26-12 Department of education.** The department of
14 education shall be headed by an executive board to be known as
15 the board of education.

16 Under policies established by the board, the superintendent
17 shall administer programs of education and public instruction
18 throughout the State, including education at the preschool,
19 primary, and secondary school levels, adult education, school
20 library services, health education and instruction (not
21 including dental health treatment transferred to the department
22 of health), and such other programs as may be established by
23 law. The state librarian, under policies established by the

1 board of education, shall be responsible for the administration
2 of programs relating to public library services and transcribing
3 services for the blind. This section shall not apply to the
4 executive office on early learning and its programs.

5 The functions and authority heretofore exercised by the
6 department of education (except dental health treatment
7 transferred to the department of health), library of Hawaii,
8 Hawaii county library, Maui county library, and the transcribing
9 services program of the bureau of sight conservation and work
10 with the blind, as heretofore constituted are transferred to the
11 public library system established by this chapter.

12 The management contract between the board of supervisors of
13 the county of Kauai and the Kauai public library association
14 shall be terminated at the earliest time after November 25,
15 1959, permissible under the terms of the contract and the
16 provisions of this paragraph shall constitute notice of
17 termination, and the functions and authority heretofore
18 exercised by the Kauai county library as heretofore constituted
19 and the Kauai public library association over the public
20 libraries in the county of Kauai shall thereupon be transferred
21 to the public library system established by this chapter.

22 The management contracts between the trustees of the
23 library of Hawaii and the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, and

1 between the library of Hawaii and the Hilo library and reading
2 room association, shall be terminated at the earliest time after
3 November 25, 1959, permissible under the terms of the contracts,
4 and the provisions of this paragraph shall constitute notice of
5 termination.

6 Upon the termination of the contracts, the State or the
7 counties shall not enter into any library management contracts
8 with any private association; provided that in providing library
9 services the board of education may enter into contracts
10 approved by the governor for the use of lands, buildings,
11 equipment, and facilities owned by any private association.

12 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the board of
13 education may establish, specify the membership number and
14 quorum requirements for, appoint members to, and disestablish a
15 commission in each county to be known as the library advisory
16 commission, which shall in each case sit in an advisory capacity
17 to the board of education on matters relating to public library
18 services in their respective county."

19 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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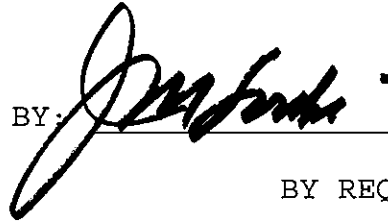
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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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BY REQUEST

JAN 22 2013

H.B. NO. 862

Report Title:

School Readiness Program

Description:

Establishes the School Readiness 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 SCHOOL READINESS.

PURPOSE: To establish a statewide school readiness program consisting of providers of school readiness services to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. The statewide school readiness program will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and is a major component of the early learning system established pursuant to section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Excepts the Executive Office on Early Learning and its programs from the purview of the Board of Education and Department of Education.

MEANS: Add a new section to chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and amend section 26-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: More of our children are entering kindergarten without the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional skills expected to prepare them for success in school life. The most recent Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment reports that fifty-seven per cent of students who entered kindergarten had attended preschool. This is a lower percentage than in years past. According to kindergarten teachers in the Department of Education, many of the children who do not have experiences in pre-kindergarten programs could be eighteen to twenty-four months behind in development than their peers who do. The link between school readiness and success in school is indisputable. Act 13, Session Laws of Hawaii 2002, defined school readiness as "young children are ready to have successful

learning experiences in school when there is a positive interaction among the child's developmental characteristics, school practices, and family and community support."

The State must expend efforts to promote school readiness, especially in light of its expectation that kindergarten students master the grade-level Common Core State Standards to develop the academic competencies and habits of mind necessary for college and career success.

The Legislature through Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, repealed the junior kindergarten program and delayed the change in kindergarten entry age to the 2014-2015 school year; a child must be five years old by July 31 of the school year. The Legislature's intent was to align the changes with the implementation of a program that would more effectively provide a developmentally appropriate experience to prepare children physically, cognitively, linguistically, socially, and emotionally prior to beginning the public education provided by the department of education. The program must be in place by 2014 to serve the children who will be affected by the change in kindergarten eligibility - those born August 1 to December 31.

Excepts the Executive Office on Early Learning and its programs from the purview of the Board of Education and Department of Education to provide the Office with autonomous decision-making ability.

Impact on the public: This bill will be beneficial to the public because it will provide a school readiness 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 school readiness program. This bill may also impact the Hawaii Department of Education because some of the school readiness programs may be implemented 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 approval.