
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 to assist
4 families in establishing a solid foundation for success in
5 school so that children graduate from high school prepared for
6 college and a career; provided that Senate Bill No. 1084,
7 introduced in the regular session of 2013, which amends article
8 X, section 1, of the Hawaii state constitution, to permit the
9 appropriation of public funds for private early childhood
10 education programs, is enacted and ratified.

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

15 For example, early childhood education is one way to reduce
16 high school dropout rates. A report released by the Annie E.
17 Casey Foundation, released in 2011 and updated in 2012, found
18 that students who do not read proficiently by third grade are



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

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

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



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

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

13 "§302L- Early childhood education program. (a) There
14 is established within the early learning system an early
15 childhood education program to be administered by the office.

16 The early childhood education program shall:

17 (1) Prepare children for school and to actively
18 participate in society; and

19 (2) Provide access to high-quality early childhood
20 education, focused on equity, that addresses
21 children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social,
22 and emotional development.



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

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

4 (2) Underserved or at-risk children.

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

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

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



1 (1) Include research-based, developmentally appropriate
2 practices that are associated with better educational
3 outcomes for children, such as hiring teachers with a
4 bachelor's degree with twelve credits in early
5 childhood education or child development; curriculum
6 aligned with the Hawaii early learning and development
7 standards; and individual assessments of children,
8 based upon all areas of childhood development and
9 learning, including cognitive, linguistic, and social-
10 emotional approaches to learning and health and
11 physical development; and

12 (2) Align with the state content and performance standards
13 for grades kindergarten to twelve to facilitate a
14 seamless and high-quality educational experience for
15 children.

16 (f) The office shall coordinate with other agencies and
17 programs to facilitate comprehensive services for early
18 childhood education.

19 (g) The office shall collect data to evaluate services
20 provided, inform sound policy, and improve the provision of
21 early childhood education through the early childhood education
22 program.



1 (h) The office shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
2 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval
5 and upon ratification of the constitutional amendment permitting
6 the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood
7 education programs.



Report Title:

Early Childhood Education Program

Description:

Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System. (SB1095 HD1)

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