

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that improving access to
2 prekindergarten in the State is critical to equipping children
3 and their families with the tools needed to succeed in
4 kindergarten and beyond. Today, more than forty per cent of
5 Hawai'i's children start kindergarten without participating in an
6 early learning program, missing out on crucial opportunities to
7 learn cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical
8 skills that support further educational success.

9 The legislature further finds that a family living in the
10 United States spends, on average, about \$16,000 per year on
11 quality child care. In Hawai'i, a high cost of living results in
12 many local families forgoing necessary child care due to
13 financial burden.

14 Act 257, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, represents a historic
15 \$200 million commitment to local families by increasing
16 prekindergarten student capacity within the State, including
17 construction of new facilities and improvement of existing



1 facilities. However, with an increase in facility capacity
2 comes a corresponding need for qualified prekindergarten
3 teachers and support staff.

4 The legislature further finds that the department of
5 education partners with the executive office on early learning
6 to operate the executive office on early learning public
7 prekindergarten program. The program employs directors,
8 teachers, and assistant teachers throughout the State -- all
9 positions that require the completion of post-secondary
10 education. Many individuals are deterred from pursuing a career
11 in prekindergarten by the oftentimes high cost of acquiring the
12 necessary credentials.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an
14 early childhood education scholarship program to be administered
15 by the University of Hawaii to assist students with school
16 tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in the
17 executive office on early learning public prekindergarten
18 program.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to part II, subpart B, to be
21 appropriately designated and to read as follows:



S.B. NO. 751

1 "§304A- Early childhood education scholarship program.

2 (a) There is established the early childhood education
3 scholarship program to be administered by the University of
4 Hawaii. The early childhood education scholarship program shall
5 assist students with school tuition in return for a service
6 commitment to teach in the executive office on early learning
7 public prekindergarten program.

8 (b) The early childhood education scholarship program
9 shall cover the cost of tuition and fees for a complete course
10 of study that qualifies an individual to teach at a
11 prekindergarten program; provided that a recipient who fails to
12 maintain satisfactory academic progress shall be terminated from
13 the early childhood education scholarship program and shall be
14 required to repay the portion of the scholarship already
15 dispensed on the recipient's behalf.

16 (c) Recipients shall be required to complete three years
17 of teaching in the executive office on early learning public
18 prekindergarten program established pursuant to section 302L-7.
19 If a recipient fails to complete the required three-year service
20 commitment, the recipient shall reimburse the University of



1 Hawaii for the full amount of the award received from the
2 scholarship program.

3 (d) The number of scholarships awarded annually shall be
4 determined by the University of Hawaii and shall be subject to
5 the availability of funds.

6 (e) The University of Hawaii shall establish necessary
7 policies and procedures to implement and sustain the scholarship
8 program, including application procedures, eligibility
9 requirements, and standards to determine which applicants are
10 awarded scholarships."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2024-2025 for the establishment of the early childhood
16 education scholarship program.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
18 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

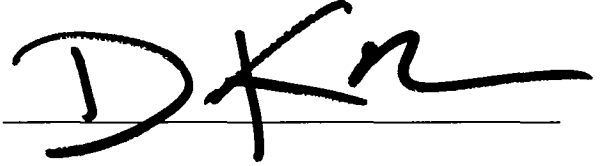
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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 751

Report Title:

Early Childhood Education; Scholarship; University of Hawaii;
Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten
Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program within the University of Hawaii to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in the Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten Program. Appropriates funds.

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

