

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

---

RELATING TO EARLY CHILD INTERVENTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State continues  
2 to face various challenges when addressing the needs of children  
3 with special needs under the age of three. One of these  
4 challenges includes significant vacancy rates for the State's  
5 early intervention providers, as Hawaii has a thirty to forty-  
6 two per cent vacancy rate across all early intervention  
7 programs. The impacts of these challenges include infant and  
8 toddler development and the State's ability to be in compliance  
9 with certain federal mandates.

10           The legislature further finds that addressing recruitment  
11 and retention of certain early intervention specialists will  
12 allow the State to fill vacant positions and ensure that infants  
13 and toddlers with special needs receive the services they are  
14 entitled to. Additionally, establishing mental health  
15 specialist positions will help increase the State's resources to  
16 meet infant and early childhood mental health needs.

17           The purpose of this Act is to:



1           (1) Require the department of human resources development  
2           to reclassify certain positions within the early  
3           childhood services unit of the department of health  
4           early intervention section; and

5           (2) Appropriate funds for the reclassification of certain  
6           positions and establishment of mental health  
7           specialist positions within the early childhood  
8           services unit of the department of health early  
9           intervention section.

10          SECTION 2. The department of human resources development  
11 shall reclassify the following positions within the early  
12 childhood services unit of the department of health early  
13 intervention section as follows:

14           (1) Physical therapist III to physical therapist IV;  
15           (2) Special education teacher III to special education  
16           teacher IV; and  
17           (3) Occupational therapist III to occupational therapist  
18           IV.

19          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                   or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2026-2027 for the reclassification of certain positions  
3 within the early childhood services unit of the department of  
4 health early intervention section pursuant to section 2 of this  
5 Act.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
7 of health for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
12 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent  
13 (2.00 FTE) permanent mental health specialist positions within  
14 the early childhood services unit of the department of health  
15 early intervention section; provided that the salary schedule  
16 for each position shall be set at a mental health specialist  
17 salary schedule.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
19 of health for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Early Intervention Services; Early Intervention Specialists;  
Department of Health; Positions; Reclassification; Department of  
Human Resources Development; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Human Resources Development to reclassify certain early intervention specialist positions within the Early Childhood Services Unit in the Department of Health. Appropriates funds for the reclassification of certain positions and establishment of new positions within the Early Childhood Services Unit. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

