
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.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
2 reclassification of certain positions and establishment of
3 mental health specialist positions within the early childhood
4 services unit of the department of health early intervention
5 section.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
9 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent
11 (2.00 FTE) permanent mental health specialist positions within
12 the early childhood services unit of the department of health
13 early intervention section; provided that the salary schedule
14 for each position shall be set at a mental health specialist
15 salary schedule.

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

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds for the establishment of new positions within
the Early Childhood Services Unit. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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