

JAN 19 2007

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The early learning education task force,
2 established by Act 259, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, was
3 assigned the following task:

4 "The task force shall develop a five-year plan with
5 annual increments for a coherent, comprehensive, and
6 sustainable early learning system that shall ensure a
7 continuum of quality early learning opportunities for
8 young children in the State from birth up to age five,
9 and which maximizes public and private resources."

10 Among the guiding principles for the design of an early
11 education system is the fact that skilled and knowledgeable
12 early care and education practitioners are an essential key to
13 quality and they must have access to education and training
14 opportunities as well as receive equitable compensation and
15 opportunities in order to succeed.

16 The task force found there are five key elements to
17 proactively increasing early educator capacity, namely to:



- 1 (1) Expand the availability and reach of scholarships,
2 with state-funded financial aid, to support early
3 educators in completing college degrees and early
4 childhood education-related coursework;
- 5 (2) Expand distance learning options for all early
6 educators;
- 7 (3) Expand offerings of early childhood education-related
8 college courses and community-based training to meet
9 the needs of early educators and junior kindergarten
10 teachers who are currently in the workforce;
- 11 (4) Establish a mentoring and coaching program to improve
12 the quality of early childhood programs statewide,
13 starting with a focus on programs for four-year-olds;
14 and
- 15 (5) Establish a recruitment and retention initiative to
16 attract new entrants to the early childhood field,
17 encourage practitioners to improve their
18 qualifications, and entice highly-qualified early
19 educators to remain in Hawaii's early learning
20 community.

21 The legislature further finds that an effective incentive
22 program can be designed based on the model used for the annual



1 incentive pay that is awarded to licensed teachers who receive
2 national certification.

3 The legislature also finds that additional funding is
4 needed for teachers for junior kindergarten programs to ensure
5 an appropriate student-to-teacher ratio at one teacher for every
6 fifteen students.

7 In addition, more can be done to identify unused public
8 school land or facilities for use by state early childhood
9 education programs.

10 The purpose of this Act is to establish an early educator
11 incentive program that will provide funding for professional
12 development, as well as subsidies for employees of early
13 education schools who agree to continue their employment for a
14 minimum of three years in an early education school affiliated
15 with a public school, to require the department to identify
16 unused public school land or facilities for use by state early
17 childhood education programs, and to appropriate funds.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
20 and to read as follows:



1 "§302A- Early educator incentive program. (a) There is
2 established an early educator incentive program within the
3 department for administrative purposes.

4 (b) The program shall be administered by a nonprofit
5 organization, the contract for which shall be awarded through a
6 competitive bid process.

7 (c) The administrator of the program shall create a
8 competitive bid system for early education schools that are
9 willing to participate in the program and become affiliated with
10 a public school.

11 (d) Early education schools may receive up to \$
12 per designated employee per year to:

13 (1) Pay for the professional development of designated
14 employees and pay for a wage subsidy of up to
15 \$ per employee for up to five years
16 following receipt of a license;

17 (2) Develop a memorandum of agreement with a department of
18 education school or public charter school to locate an
19 early education facility on or near the public school
20 campus and develop a collaborative and seamless
21 education plan that would maximize continuity between



1 the child's early education and public school learning
2 environment and curriculum;

3 (3) Provide for the part-time assignment of a designated
4 employee in the public school as an assistant to the
5 regular teaching faculty; and

6 (4) Create opportunities for the movement of participating
7 personnel with the children as they move from
8 preschool to the public school in order to minimize
9 disruptions, maximize readiness of children to enter
10 public school, and to maximize the readiness of the
11 schools to receive them.

12 For purposes of this section, "designated employee" means
13 an employee who does not yet have a license recognized by the
14 Hawaii teachers standard board to teach in a Hawaii public
15 school, who agrees to complete a prescribed program of state-
16 approved professional development courses leading to licensure
17 in elementary education, and who further agrees to continue to
18 be employed in an early education workforce incentive program
19 preschool or affiliated public elementary school for no less
20 than three years following the receipt of a license."

21 SECTION 3. Section 302A-1506.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
22 is amended to read as follows:



1 " ~~[§]~~302A-1506.5 ~~[§]~~ **Early childhood education facilities;**
2 **identifying sites~~[§]~~; inspections.** (a) The department of
3 education shall identify unused public school facilities for use
4 by early childhood education programs. Suitable empty
5 classrooms, as determined by the department, shall be
6 ~~[inventoried for potential use in]~~ prepared and utilized for
7 early childhood education programs~~[§]~~; provided that the
8 classrooms shall meet the licensing standards determined by the
9 departments of education and human services. Priority shall be
10 given to land or facilities on sites with sufficient space for
11 three or more classrooms to be renovated or constructed.

12 (b) The department shall assist in the identification of
13 possible construction sites for private providers to build early
14 childhood education facilities.

15 (c) The department shall inspect each early childhood
16 education program facility as frequently as it deems necessary
17 for the proper operation, sanitation, and safety of the
18 facility. The inspections shall be made at least once a year.
19 All early education program facilities shall be open at all
20 times to visitation and inspection by representatives of the
21 departments of education, human services, and health, and by the



1 designated representatives of the respective county fire
2 departments.

3 (d) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
4 to effectuate this section."

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
8 the same amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary for
9 fiscal year 2008-2009, for the early educator incentive program.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
11 of education for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and
15 the same amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary for
16 fiscal year 2008-2009, for junior kindergarten teachers, to
17 ensure that the student-to-teacher ratio in junior kindergarten
18 programs shall not exceed fifteen students for every one
19 teacher.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of education for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
4 provided that sections 4 and 5 shall take effect on
5 July 1, 2007.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Early Education; Workforce; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes an early educator incentive program. Appropriates funds.

