
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 PART I

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

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

11 Among the guiding principles for the design of an early
12 system is the following statement regarding workforce
13 development:

14 Skilled and knowledgeable early care and education
15 practitioners are an essential key to quality; they
16 must have access to education and training
17 opportunities and receive equitable compensation and
18 opportunities to succeed.



1 The task force noted five key elements to proactively
2 increase early educator capacity, namely:

3 (1) Expand the availability and reach of scholarship, with
4 state-funded financial aid, to support early educators
5 in completing college degrees and early childhood
6 education-related coursework;

7 (2) Expand distance learning options for all early
8 educators;

9 (3) Expand offerings of early childhood education-related
10 college courses and community-based training to meet
11 the needs of early educators and junior kindergarten
12 teachers who are currently in the work force;

13 (4) Establish a mentoring and coaching program, in
14 conjunction with early learning programs, to improve
15 quality in early childhood programs statewide,
16 starting with a focus on programs for four-year-olds;
17 and

18 (5) Establish a recruitment and retention initiative to
19 attract new entrants to the early childhood field,
20 encourage practitioners to improve their
21 qualifications, and entice highly-qualified early



1 educators to remain in Hawaii's early learning
2 community.

3 (b) The legislature finds that an effective incentive
4 program can be designed based on the model used for the annual
5 incentive pay that is awarded licensed teachers who receive
6 national certification.

7 The legislature also finds that according to a 2006 junior
8 kindergarten pilot program evaluation report commissioned by the
9 Hawaii educational policy center, additional funding is needed
10 for junior kindergarten to enhance professional development,
11 modify classroom environments, and assure appropriate student
12 teacher ratios according to national standards. These provisions
13 would further support the intent of Act 219, Session Laws of
14 Hawaii 2004, to offer a quality educational program to those
15 four-year-old children born after August 1 and before December
16 31, who are ineligible to enter kindergarten.

17 The legislature also finds that there is an insufficient
18 supply of classrooms for early childhood programs statewide and
19 that the pre-plus initiative successfully constructed an
20 additional seventeen early childhood classrooms that will serve
21 over three hundred fifty disadvantaged children.

22 (c) The purposes of this Act are to:



- 1 (1) Enhance the quality of early education programs
2 serving three- and four-year-old children by:
- 3 (A) Establishing an early educator incentive program
4 to:
- 5 (i) Support the professional development and
6 licensure of early childhood educators and
7 administrators in the private sector;
- 8 (ii) Encourage better program alignment between
9 private preschool programs operating on
10 public elementary campuses and the
11 elementary school program;
- 12 (iii) Provide wage subsidies for licensed private
13 early childhood educators to continue their
14 employment in a preschool aligned with a
15 public elementary school for a minimum of
16 three years; and
- 17 (2) Enhance the quality of the junior kindergarten program
18 by:
- 19 (A) Reducing the student-to-teacher ratio per
20 four-year-old classroom to meet national
21 standards;



- 1 (B) Providing for developmentally appropriate
- 2 classroom equipment and materials;
- 3 (C) Providing for the professional development
- 4 of junior kindergarten administrators and
- 5 educators; and
- 6 (3) Increasing the offering of college coursework to the
- 7 early childhood education workforce by funding
- 8 additional online and distance learning courses; and
- 9 (4) Increasing the supply of suitable early childhood
- 10 facilities located on public elementary campuses
- 11 through the continuation of the pre-plus classroom
- 12 construction initiative.

13 PART II

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§302A - Early educator incentive program. There is
18 established an early educator incentive program that shall be
19 administered through a qualified nonprofit organization awarded
20 through a competitive process. The department of education
21 shall award a nonprofit organization a contract to administer a
22 program with the following characteristics:



1 (1) The administrator shall create a competitive award
2 system for early education schools that are willing to
3 participate in the incentive program and become
4 aligned with a public school;

5 (2) Early education schools may receive up to \$
6 per designated employee per year for the following:

7 (A) Designation of one or more employees who do not
8 yet have a license recognized by the Hawaii
9 teacher standards board to teach in a Hawaii
10 public school, who agree to complete a prescribed
11 program of state-approved professional
12 development courses leading to licensure in
13 elementary education with an early childhood
14 endorsement, and who further agree to continue to
15 be employed in a early education workforce
16 incentive program preschool, or aligned public
17 elementary schools for no less than three years
18 following the receipt of a license; and

19 (B) Costs for the professional development of the
20 designated employee or employees and pay for a
21 wage subsidy of up to \$ per employee for
22 up to five years following receipt of a license;



1 (C) Development of a memorandum of agreement with a
2 department or public charter school to develop a
3 collaborative and seamless educational plan that
4 would maximize continuity between the child's
5 early education and public school learning
6 environment and curriculum;

7 (D) Provision for the part-time assignment of the
8 early education employee in the public school as
9 an assistant to the regular teaching faculty; and

10 (E) Creation of opportunities for the movement of
11 participating personnel with the children as they
12 move from the pre-school to the public school to
13 minimize disruptions and maximize the readiness
14 of children to enter public school, and the
15 readiness of the schools to receive them.

16 §302A- **Early childhood education facilities;**

17 identifying sites; inspections. (a) The department shall
18 identify unused public school land or facilities for use by
19 state early childhood education programs. Suitable empty
20 classrooms, as determined by the department, shall be prepared
21 and utilized for state early childhood education programs;
22 provided that the classrooms meet the licensing standards



1 determined by the departments of education and human services.
2 Priority shall be given to land or facilities on sites with
3 sufficient space for three or more classrooms.

4 (b) The department shall assist in the identification of
5 possible construction sites for the development of pre-plus
6 facilities.

7 (c) All early education program facilities shall be open
8 at all times to visitation and inspection by representatives of
9 the departments of education, human services, and health, and by
10 designated representatives of the respective county fire
11 departments.

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

14 PART III

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
18 same sum of \$, or so much thereof as may be necessary for
19 fiscal year 2008-2009, for the early educator incentive program.

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the



1 same sum of \$, or so much thereof as may be necessary for
2 fiscal year 2008-2009, for the junior kindergarten faculty and
3 professional development and classroom materials; provided that
4 the ratio of students to facility shall not be greater than
5 national standards for student age levels.

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
9 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
10 2008-2009, for additional early education courses for teachers.

11 SECTION 6. The sums appropriated in sections 3 to 5 shall
12 be expended by the department of education for the purposes of
13 this Act.

14 PART IV

15 SECTION 7. The director of finance is authorized to issue
16 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$, or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary, and the same sum, or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year
19 2007-2008, for the plans, design, and construction of additional
20 schools as part of the pre-plus initiative.

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



1 SECTION 8. The appropriation made for the capital
2 improvement project authorized in section 7 shall not lapse at
3 the end of the fiscal year for which the appropriation is made;
4 provided that all money from the appropriation is unencumbered
5 as of June 30, 2011, shall lapse of that date.

6 SECTION 9. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2007



Report Title:

Education; Junior Kindergarten; Early Education; Pre-Plus

Description:

Establishes an early education workforce incentive program, provides quality enhancements to junior kindergarten, and increases early educator training opportunities. Authorizes general obligation bonds for the department of education to build additional facilities as part of the pre-plus initiative.

