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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the purpose and  
2 mission of education is to advance the endowment of human nature  
3 itself, so that each succeeding generation finds itself further  
4 along the road toward peace, social justice, and environmental  
5 sustainability in a society guided by creativity, compassion,  
6 and curiosity.

7           The legislature further finds that early childhood learning  
8 opportunities are fundamental to developing self-esteem,  
9 personal values, social behaviors, attitudes that contribute to  
10 collaborative living, and skills that promote lifelong learning.

11           The legislature further finds that well-functioning, well-  
12 informed families are the most effective units for providing the  
13 early apprenticeship in learning that children need for  
14 successful entry into formal schooling as well as for continued  
15 school success. Research has shown that high quality early  
16 education programs that engage parents as participants have  
17 produced significant positive long-term effects.



1           With the passage of Act 259, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006,  
2 the legislature acted upon its recognition that early childhood  
3 learning is crucial preparation for successful life-long  
4 learning, that it is cost-effective in preventing costly  
5 societal problems in later life, and that it is a critical link  
6 in the chain of efforts to produce contributory, responsible  
7 citizens of our democratic society.

8           Act 259 funded a temporary early childhood education task  
9 force to develop a framework to increase access to and improve  
10 the quality of early education programs and to support the  
11 professional development of early childhood educators.

12           This Act complements the work accomplished by that task  
13 force by supporting, developing, evaluating, and recommending a  
14 strong family strengthening and involvement component for early  
15 childhood education programs.

16           The purposes of this Act are to:

17           (1) Improve early childhood education and develop long  
18 term, parental participation for children's learning  
19 by appropriating funds to:

20           (A) Support and coordinate the efforts of existing  
21 parent-participatory early education programs as  
22 demonstration sites;



- 1 (B) Evaluate the outcomes of these programs; and
- 2 (C) Base policy recommendations on these evaluation
- 3 research findings;
- 4 (2) Develop and disseminate plans and curricula for parent
- 5 participation in early education programs throughout
- 6 Hawaii; and
- 7 (3) Institute and support the training and certification
- 8 of parent educators in Hawaii by the family education
- 9 training center and the family resources program,
- 10 department of family and consumer sciences, college of
- 11 tropical agriculture and human resources, of the
- 12 University of Hawaii at Manoa.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately  
15 designated and to read as follows:

16 **"§304A- Family strengthening coordination center;**  
17 **established.** (a) A family strengthening coordination center  
18 shall be established in the college of tropical agriculture and  
19 human resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and shall  
20 be operated by the board of the family strengthening  
21 coordination center.



- 1        (b) The board of the family strengthening coordination  
2 center shall consist of nine members from the college of  
3 tropical agriculture and human resources to be chosen as  
4 follows:
- 5        (1) One member shall be designated by the speaker of the  
6 house of representatives;
- 7        (2) One member shall be designated by the president of the  
8 senate;
- 9        (3) The center director, who shall be a tenured member of  
10 the faculty of the college of tropical agriculture and  
11 human resources with experience in family  
12 strengthening training, research, and administration;
- 13        (4) The chairperson of the department of family and  
14 consumer science;
- 15        (5) A representative of the center on the family, who  
16 shall be designated by the dean of the college of  
17 tropical agriculture and human resources;
- 18        (6) One member from the board of an early education  
19 program committed to family involvement, who shall be  
20 designated by the dean of the college of tropical  
21 agriculture and human resources;



1        (7) One member who shall be an officer or board member of  
2        an agency addressing family strengthening for families  
3        under court supervision, designated by the dean of the  
4        college of tropical agriculture and human resources;

5        (8) One member who shall be a certified Adlerian family  
6        counselor designated by the dean of the college of  
7        tropical agriculture and human resources; and

8        (9) One member from the community at large who shall be  
9        designated by the dean of the college of tropical  
10       agriculture and human resources.

11       (c) Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be  
12       reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary  
13       for the performance of their duties.

14       (d) The family strengthening coordination center shall be  
15       authorized to in the short term to address issues relating to  
16       the challenges of family involvement in early education.

17       However, its long-term aim shall be to encourage democratic  
18       family processes at all stages of development and to foster the  
19       development of citizens who can contribute to social justice,  
20       prosperity, and environmental sustainability for Hawaii.



1       The immediate goals of the family strengthening  
2 coordination center in the first year of its operations shall be  
3 to:

4       (1) Identify existing early childhood education programs  
5 in the community that have strong family  
6 strengthening, parent participation, or family  
7 involvement components. To accomplish this goal, the  
8 family strengthening coordination center shall write a  
9 request for proposals for programs to participate as  
10 demonstration sites in a process of determining best  
11 practices in family involvement in early childhood  
12 education. It shall review the request for proposal  
13 applications and select the strongest programs as  
14 demonstration sites;

15       (2) Identify, clarify, and state the family strengthening  
16 principles that enhance productive, democratic family  
17 life, and provide children with the supportive  
18 apprenticeship in learning they need to be successful  
19 in later schooling;

20       (3) Develop an evaluation plan to compare the immediate  
21 outcomes of early childhood education demonstration  
22 sites that have strong family involvement components



1 with control sites that have limited family  
2 participation. The purpose of the evaluation is to  
3 test the claim that family involvement is crucial in  
4 early childhood education and to determine the  
5 relative strengths and weaknesses of the different  
6 family involvement demonstration programs. To develop  
7 the evaluation plan, the family strengthening  
8 coordination center shall determine performance  
9 indicators and identify quality assessment  
10 instruments. Once demonstration sites are selected,  
11 the family strengthening coordination center shall  
12 implement the evaluation plan. Evaluators shall train  
13 staff at the participating sites in administering  
14 these instruments. Sites shall collect and record  
15 their own evaluation data. At the end of the project  
16 period, the family strengthening coordination center  
17 shall gather and analyze the data collected at the  
18 sites and write an evaluation report on the relative  
19 strengths and weaknesses of family involvement  
20 projects as opposed to non-family involvement  
21 projects;



- 1        (4) Fund the selected family involvement early childhood  
2        education demonstration sites, to enable them to  
3        immediately:
- 4        (A) Increase their operations to serve more families  
5        with young children;
- 6        (B) Structure their efforts to follow family  
7        strengthening principles specified by the family  
8        strengthening coordination center;
- 9        (C) Systematically conduct pre-test and post-test  
10       evaluations of the effectiveness of their sites,  
11       using measures and methods developed by the  
12       family strengthening coordination center;
- 13       (D) Enroll a key member of their staff in the parent  
14       educator certification program of the University  
15       of Hawaii to become certified in family  
16       strengthening parent education;
- 17       (E) Participate in an initial summer conference on  
18       family strengthening in early childhood education  
19       at which they shall present their own program;  
20       learn about the other programs in the consortium;  
21       receive training in the family strengthening  
22       conceptual model; and receive training at



- 1           completing the pre-test/post-test evaluation  
2           procedures; and network with other providers; and  
3           (F) Participate in a follow up summer institute to  
4           report the evaluation findings from their own  
5           sites and to work with other providers to  
6           generate policy recommendations to the  
7           legislature on how to strengthen families and the  
8           development of young children at early childhood  
9           education sites;
- 10          (5) Institute and run the parent educator training program  
11          in the University of Hawaii family resources program  
12          and provide parent educator certificates granted by  
13          the family education training center of Hawaii. In  
14          this process, the family strengthening coordination  
15          center shall systematically train at least one staff  
16          member from each participating demonstration site  
17          during the course of the year as well as provide other  
18          training participants access to information about each  
19          site;
- 20          (6) Plan and run the pre-project conference on family  
21          strengthening and early childhood education and have  
22          personnel from the participating demonstration sites



1 present their conceptual frameworks, outcome  
2 objectives, prevention/intervention methods, and any  
3 prior evaluation findings. The family strengthening  
4 coordination center shall train demonstration site  
5 participants in the family strengthening model and in  
6 collecting evaluation data;

7 (7) Plan and run the post-project conference on family  
8 strengthening and early childhood education and have  
9 personnel from the participating sites present their  
10 evaluation findings and work together to form  
11 consortium conclusions about research-based best  
12 practices at the sites;

13 (8) Gather and use the evaluation findings, conference  
14 discussions, and conclusions to recommend policies to  
15 the legislature concerning how best to structure  
16 family strengthening early childhood education  
17 programs, how best to train and certify parent  
18 educators for those programs and how best to staff  
19 those programs; and

20 (9) Disseminate the family strengthening coordination  
21 center report and information on the demonstration  
22 site programs to the public.



1       (e) The family strengthening coordination center shall  
2 recommend distribution of funds from the research corporation of  
3 the University of Hawaii to the demonstration sites. No program  
4 shall be disqualified from competing for those funds for the  
5 sole reason that a board or staff member of the program is also  
6 a member of the family strengthening coordination center;  
7 provided that the member will recuse oneself from voting on  
8 matters before the family strengthening coordination center  
9 concerning the program.

10       (f) The family strengthening coordination center shall be  
11 exempt from chapter 92; provided that the family strengthening  
12 coordination center shall make a good faith effort to have its  
13 proceedings and work products accessible and available to the  
14 general public in a manner consistent with the intent of chapter  
15 92.

16       (g) The family strengthening coordination center shall be  
17 exempt from the requirements of chapter 103D.

18       (h) The director of the family strengthening coordination  
19 center shall submit an annual report of its operations to the  
20 legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of each  
21 regular session."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000, or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the  
4 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
5 2008-2009, to support the operations of the family strengthening  
6 coordination center.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
8 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that  
9 expenditure of the appropriations shall not be subject to  
10 chapter 103D.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
12 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

13

INTRODUCED BY: Lyda B. Berg  
B. Kahui

JAN 24 2007



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii

**Description:**

Establishes the family strengthening coordination center at the University of Hawaii.

