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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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

1 The legislature finds that investing in early SECTION 1. 2 childhood education is in the best interest of our community. 3 Statistics show that approximately fifty per cent of all 4 children who enter kindergarten in public schools in Hawaii have inadequate skills needed to learn at that age, and that the 5 6 skill deficit is often never made up. National studies show 7 that for every dollar spent on early childhood education, the 8 State saves \$7 in addressing subsequent remedial and social 9 problems.

10 The legislature believes that a prudent step to improving 11 learning is to establish a pre-kindergarten academy program 12 focused on early childhood development to prepare children for kindergarten, its rituals and routines, and to foster overall 13 14 school readiness. To make the best use of public facilities and 15 resources, the academy will be operated during the summer. The 16 program will be designed for four-year-old children who will be 17 entering kindergarten. The program will focus on, but not be 18 limited to, early childhood development and preparing children HB LRB 08-0999.doc 1

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to develop the tools necessary to learn prior to entering
kindergarten.

The legislature also realizes that a new program needs to be placed in the context of existing, ongoing programs such as K-12 education. The pre-kindergarten academy program shall accept children universally. Thus, program participants will provide financial support similar to the manner in which the A-plus program subsidizes its operating costs.

9 The legislature also recognizes that parents need the 10 resources and tools to help them with the development of their 11 young child, particularly parents who have a newborn child.

12 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pre-kindergarten 13 academy program for four-year-old children and an educational 14 resource center for parents of newborn children.

15 SECTION 2. The department of education shall plan, design, 16 and implement a pre-kindergarten academy program to provide 17 four-year-old children early childhood development and to 18 prepare them for entry into kindergarten. The program shall be 19 offered during summer months and, when possible, in existing department of education facilities and be designed to provide a 20 21 full day of care. The program shall begin no later than summer 22 The program shall be developed in consultation with the 2009.



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Good Beginnings Alliance and in accordance with accepted
practices and standards. The program shall also offer materials
and resources that will assist parents during the months when
the academy is not in operation.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much 7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the 8 department of education to plan and design a pre-kindergarten 9 academy program established under this Act. The department of 10 education may use these funds as it deems appropriate to plan, 11 design, and implement the program.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of 13 education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general 15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000 or so much 16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the 17 department of education to contract for the planning, design, 18 and operation of an educational resource program for parents of 19 newborn children. The program may include, but not be limited 20 to, providing educational material, information on available 21 resources, and information on early childhood development. The 22 program shall be provided to parents as perinatal care and may



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include follow up contact, as necessary. This educational
resource program shall be implemented in conjunction with other
early childhood programs that have set standards and assist
parents with the development of their child.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of6 education for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 5. The department of education shall submit a 8 report to the legislature not later than twenty days prior to 9 the convening of the 2009 regular session on its progress in 10 developing the pre-kindergarten academy program and the 11 educational resource program. The report shall include 12 financial statements and any other information as the 13 legislature may request.

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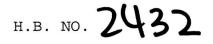
SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

JAN 1 7 2008





Report Title:

Early Childhood Development; Pre-Kindergarten; Newborn Children

Description:

Requires the department of education to plan, design, and implement a pre-kindergarten academy for four-year-old children and an educational resource program for parents of newborn children. Appropriates funds.

