





GOV. MSG. NO. 644

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

June 29, 2010

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

This is to inform you that on June 29, 2010, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2068 SD2 HD1 CD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT  
RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION.  
**ACT 183 (10)**

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE

RECEIVED  
SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

10 JUN 29 10:44

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 29 2010

THE SENATE  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 183**  
**S.B. NO.** 2068  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1  
C.D. 1

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. Act 219, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, launched  
2 junior kindergarten beginning with the 2006-2007 school year,  
3 with the intent to enable all children in Hawaii to succeed in  
4 kindergarten and subsequent school experiences by addressing  
5 their varying developmental and learning needs. The legislature  
6 finds that thus far, only about one-third of the schools in the  
7 state have adopted some variation of the junior kindergarten  
8 program.

9           The intent of Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2008,  
10 which established the State's early learning system known as  
11 Keiki First Steps, was to integrate the cohort of children who  
12 would otherwise attend junior kindergarten into the system over  
13 time, because as the legislature continues to find, these  
14 children may be placed more appropriately in a preschool  
15 setting. However, the legislature finds that more rapid  
16 progress must be made in finding cost-effective methods of  
17 providing early education.

18           The purpose of this Act is to:

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1 (1) Amend the age requirement for entrance into the public  
2 kindergarten program; and

3 (2) Require the department of education and early learning  
4 council to work together on a plan to assess the  
5 success of public junior kindergarten programs at  
6 individual schools.

7 SECTION 2. Section 302A-411, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

9 "(c) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, a child who  
10 will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of  
11 the school year may attend a public school kindergarten.

12 Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, a child who will be at  
13 least five years of age on or before August 1 of the school year  
14 may attend a public school kindergarten. Beginning with the

15 2006-2007 school year, a child who will be at least five years  
16 of age after August 1 and before January 1 of the school year

17 may attend a public school junior kindergarten. Beginning with

18 the 2013-2014 school year, a child who will be at least five  
19 years of age on the first day of instruction may attend a public  
20 school kindergarten."

21 SECTION 3. The department of education and early learning  
22 council shall work together to develop a plan to assess the



1 success of public junior kindergarten programs at individual  
2 schools. The plan shall:

3 (1) Provide for early childhood educational opportunities  
4 for the children who would have otherwise been  
5 eligible for junior kindergarten or kindergarten; and

6 (2) Recommend a funding plan with the following features:

7 (A) Supports the education of four year olds,  
8 including children who would have been eligible  
9 to attend public school prior to the age change  
10 provided for under section 302A-411(c), Hawaii  
11 Revised Statutes, pursuant to this Act;

12 (B) Be tiered and based on family income; and

13 (C) Incorporates public and private funding sources.

14 The department of education and early learning council  
15 shall submit the plan and any proposed legislation to the  
16 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
17 the 2011 regular session.

18 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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APPROVED this 29 day of JUN, 2010

  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII