

JAN 22 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that family-child  
2 interaction learning programs provide children from birth to age  
3 five with engaging, literacy-rich early learning environments  
4 that foster social and emotional development and support school  
5 readiness. Family-child interaction learning programs include  
6 two main components: high-quality early childhood learning and  
7 parent education, which equips parents and caregivers with the  
8 knowledge and skills to support their children's education and  
9 healthy family dynamics.

10       The legislature further finds that family-child interaction  
11 learning programs promote positive childhood experiences, which  
12 are strongly linked to better outcomes across the child's  
13 lifetime. Individuals who reported having positive childhood  
14 experiences had better adult physical health, were less likely  
15 to report adult depression or mental health issues, were less  
16 likely to engage in substance use and delinquent behavior and  
17 had healthier family dynamics.



1       The legislature also finds that family-child interaction  
2   learning programs are uniquely positioned to improve early  
3   detection of developmental delays, expand access to infant and  
4   early childhood mental health services, and connect families  
5   with a wide variety of social services.

6       Moreover, the legislature finds that proposed cuts to  
7   federal funding that has historically supported family-child  
8   interaction learning programs would reduce the number of these  
9   programs from sixty-four to three. This reduction would  
10   significantly affect local children and families and result in  
11   the loss of nearly one hundred twenty early childhood educator  
12   positions.

13       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to sustain the number  
14   of family-child interaction learning programs in the State by  
15   appropriating funds to the executive office on early learning to  
16   support family-child interaction learning programs.

17       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18   revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so  
19   much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
20   the executive office on early learning to administer funding for  
21   family-child interaction learning programs.



1       The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
2 office on early learning for the purposes of this Act.

3       SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act, the executive office  
4 on early learning may contract with third-party providers of  
5 family-child interaction learning programs and may collaborate  
6 with the counties to administer funding for family-child  
7 interaction learning programs.

8       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 2496

**Report Title:**

Family-child Interaction Learning Programs; Executive Office on Early Learning; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Early Learning to administer funding for family-child interaction learning programs.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

