A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an amendment to article X, section 1, of the Hawaii state constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Article X, section 1, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii is amended to read as follows:

"PUBLIC EDUCATION

Section 1. The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical facilities therefor. There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions because of race, religion, sex or ancestry; nor shall public funds be appropriated for the support or benefit of any sectarian or religious charitable institution.
nonsectarian private educational institution, except that public
funds may be appropriated for the support or benefit of private
early childhood education programs, subject to the non-
discrimination provision above, as provided by law, and that
proceeds of special purpose revenue bonds authorized or issued
under section 12 of Article VII may be appropriated to finance
or assist:

1. Not-for-profit corporations that provide early
childhood education and care facilities serving the general
public; and

2. Not-for-profit private nonsectarian and sectarian
elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and
universities."

SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
be as follows:

"Shall the appropriation of public funds be permitted for
the support or benefit of private early childhood education
programs that shall not discriminate on the basis of race,
religion, sex or ancestry, as provided by law?"

SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.
SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.
Report Title:
Early Childhood Education; Public Funds; Constitutional Amendment

Description:
Proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, subject to non-discrimination provisions, as provided by law. (CD1)

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