
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 302A-411, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~§~~302A-411 ~~[Kindergarten]~~ Junior kindergarten and
4 kindergarten program; establishment; attendance. (a) The
5 department shall establish and maintain junior kindergartens and
6 kindergartens with a program of instruction as a part of the
7 public school system; provided that:

8 (1) Attendance in junior kindergarten shall not be
9 mandatory;

10 (2) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, junior
11 kindergarten classrooms shall be established on all
12 department public elementary school campuses;

13 ~~[(1)]~~ (3) Attendance in kindergarten shall be mandatory,
14 unless exempted by subsection (b) or section 302A-
15 1132; and

16 ~~[(2)]~~ (4) Charter schools shall not be excluded from
17 mandatory participation in the kindergarten program.



1 (b) The department shall establish a two-tier junior
2 kindergarten and kindergarten program to support the range of
3 developmental abilities of children in junior kindergarten and
4 kindergarten. Schools shall not move students between junior
5 kindergarten and kindergarten; except in cases where the
6 movement is warranted and based on appropriate assessments
7 determined by:

8 (1) A qualified teacher with early childhood education
9 background or experience; and

10 (2) The formative and summative assessment of a student's
11 academic, physical, social, and emotional abilities;
12 provided that the department shall use successful
13 assessment tools and protocols for determining a
14 student's initial placement and for decision-making
15 about a student's movement between tiers and into
16 grade one. Junior kindergarten students may graduate
17 directly to grade one when promotion is based on
18 appropriate assessments and other progress data
19 collected over time.

20 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, any
21 parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for,



1 or care of, a child who will be at least five years of age on or
2 before July 31 of the school year shall enroll the child in a
3 public school kindergarten unless the child is enrolled at a
4 private school or the child's attendance is otherwise exempt
5 under section 302A-1132.

6 [~~e~~] (d) The department may accept gifts to establish and
7 maintain junior kindergartens and kindergartens."

8 SECTION 2. The department of education shall develop a
9 phase-in procedure to ensure that beginning with the 2018-2019
10 school year, junior kindergarten classrooms are established on
11 all department of education public elementary school campuses.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2016-2017 for the establishment and support of junior
17 kindergarten classrooms on department of education public
18 elementary school campuses.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of education for the purposes of this Act.

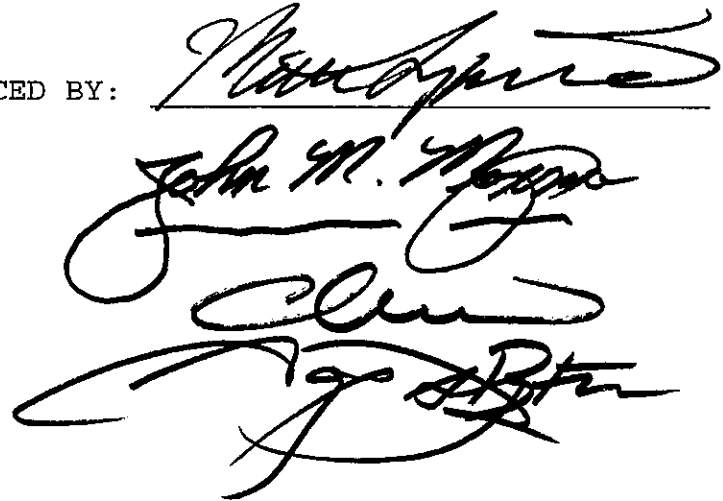


1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

The block contains three handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is the most prominent and appears to be 'John M. ...'. Below it are two other signatures, one of which is partially obscured by the one above it.

JAN 27 2015



H.B. NO. 1066

Report Title:

Junior Kindergarten; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to re-establish the junior kindergarten program. Requires junior kindergarten classrooms to be established on all Department of Education public elementary school campuses beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

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

