
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general
3 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
4 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
5 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
6 year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the preschool open doors
7 special fund.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the preschool open
9 doors special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
10 may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum or
11 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025
12 for the preschool grant program; the hiring of three temporary
13 information technology positions without regard to chapter 89,
14 Hawaii Revised Statutes, to support modifications to the
15 preschool open doors program; and the data governance issues
16 necessitated by Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, and Act
17 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021; provided that funds



1 appropriated pursuant to this section may also be expended on
2 additional permanent staff, benefit expenses related to the new
3 staff, and costs associated with necessary modifications to the
4 preschool open doors program; provided further that funds
5 appropriated pursuant to this section may be expended without
6 regard to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
8 of human services for the purposes of this part.

9 PART II

10 SECTION 3. Section 346-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

12 "(b) Accreditation under this section shall be obtained
13 from one or more of the following national early learning
14 accrediting organizations:

- 15 (1) National Association for the Education of Young
16 Children;
- 17 (2) National Early Childhood Program Accreditation;
- 18 (3) National Association for Family Child Care; or
- 19 (4) An accrediting organization approved by the director[+
20 ~~provided that the accrediting organization is~~



1 ~~comparable to the organizations specified in~~
2 ~~paragraphs (1) through (3)] ."~~

3 PART III

4 SECTION 4. Section 302L-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

6 "(b) The office shall implement an application process for
7 schools that are interested in participating in the program.
8 The criteria to prioritize applications shall include:

9 (1) Community need, including:

10 (A) The percentage of the population in the school or
11 community that meets the definitions of at-risk
12 and underserved children pursuant to section
13 302L-1; and

14 (B) The availability and capacity of existing early
15 learning programs or services for three- and
16 four-year-old children on the school campus and
17 in the surrounding area;

18 (2) The availability of a classroom and outdoor play area
19 that meet department of human services requirements
20 for health and safety for three- and four-year-old
21 children; and



1 (3) The commitment of the principal to implementing a
2 high-quality prekindergarten program including through
3 active participation in professional development
4 sessions offered through the office, and to promoting
5 continuity and alignment between and across other
6 early learning programs in the community and other
7 grade levels in the school to ensure the positive
8 outcomes of children are sustained.

9 (c) The program shall serve [~~children in the year prior to~~
10 ~~the year of kindergarten eligibility,~~] three- and four-year-old
11 children who are in the two years prior to kindergarten entry
12 pursuant to section 302A-411, with priority extended to
13 underserved or at-risk children, as defined in section 302L-1,
14 and follow the academic year schedule of the department of
15 education and be aligned with the full-day kindergarten
16 classroom schedule of each school. Enrollment priority shall be
17 given but is not limited to children who attend prekindergarten
18 at schools to which the children will be assigned upon entering
19 kindergarten under section 302A-1143."

20 SECTION 5. Section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1 "(b) Subject to the availability of funds, the program
2 shall serve three- and four-year-old children[-] who are in the
3 two years prior to kindergarten entry pursuant to section
4 302A-411, with priority extended in the following order to:

5 (1) Children who are not eligible to attend public school
6 kindergarten in the calendar year in which they turn
7 five years of age because their birth date occurs
8 after the kindergarten eligibility date pursuant to
9 section 302A-411; [and]

10 (2) Underserved or at-risk [~~children,-~~] four-year-old
11 children who were previously served as a
12 three-year-old child, as defined by rules adopted by
13 the department[-];

14 (3) Four-year-old children who were previously served as a
15 three-year-old child;

16 (4) Four-year-old children;

17 (5) Underserved or at-risk three-year-old children, as
18 defined by rules adopted by the department; and

19 (6) Three-year-old children."

20 SECTION 6. Section 346-182, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1 "(a) There is established within the state treasury the
2 preschool open doors special fund, to be administered by the
3 department's child care assistance program, into which shall be
4 deposited all moneys received by the department's child care
5 assistance program in the form of:

6 (1) Fees;

7 (2) Grants;

8 (3) Donations;

9 (4) Appropriations made by the legislature to the fund;

10 (5) Federal funds;

11 ~~[-5-]~~ (6) Revenues regardless of their source; and

12 ~~[-6-]~~ (7) Earnings on moneys in the fund.

13 Moneys in the fund shall be used for the procurement of health
14 and human services under the preschool open doors program.

15 Expenditures from the fund may be made by the department without
16 allotment but shall not be made for capital improvement
17 projects."

18 SECTION 7. Act 210, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, is
19 amended by amending section 14 to read as follows:

20 "SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
21 provided that:



1 (1) Section 5 shall be repealed on July 1, 2022, and
2 section ~~[302L-7,]~~ 302L-7(o) and (p), Hawaii Revised
3 Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form in which it
4 read on the day prior to the effective date of this
5 Act;

6 ~~[(2) Section 6 shall be repealed on July 1, 2024, and
7 section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be
8 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day
9 prior to the effective date of this Act,]~~ and

10 ~~[(3)]~~ (2) Section 11 shall take effect on July 1, 2021."

11 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Preschool Open Doors; Executive Office on Early Learning;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Preschool Open Doors Program and Executive Office on Early Learning to expand access to preschool and to implement program changes required by previous acts. Expands the types of entities from which a Preschool Open Doors service provider may obtain accreditation. Expands the Preschool Open Doors Program application process to eligible 3-year-old children. Authorizes the Preschool Open Doors Special Fund to accept federal funds. Effective 7/1/3000.
(SD2)

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

