
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302L- Early learning board; qualifications;
5 administration priorities. (a) Upon the nomination of any
6 voting member to the board established pursuant to section
7 302L-1.6, the governor shall provide written documentation
8 articulating the administration's goals and priorities with
9 respect to the formation of a highly-functioning, well-balanced
10 board and describing the nominee's qualifications.

11 (b) Each nominee shall meet the following minimum
12 qualifications:

13 (1) Demonstrate integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical
14 standards and be willing to hold fellow board members
15 to the same;

16 (2) Commit to being a conscientious and attentive board
17 member;



- 1 (3) Have an understanding of best practices in early
- 2 learning governance or be willing to be trained in
- 3 best practices in early learning governance; and
- 4 (4) Have a clear understanding of the board's role in
- 5 developing and protecting a clear, long-term strategic
- 6 vision for early learning.

7 (c) Each nominee shall ideally meet the following
 8 qualifications:

- 9 (1) Have substantial leadership experience that
- 10 illustrates the nominee's ability to function among
- 11 diverse colleagues as an effective team member, with
- 12 the ability to articulate, understand, and help shape
- 13 consensus on board policies; and
- 14 (2) Demonstrate a deep and abiding interest in early
- 15 learning and a dedication to the social, academic, and
- 16 character development of children."

17 SECTION 2 Section 302L-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 18 amended to read as follows:

19 "§302L-1.6 **Early learning board.** (a) There is
 20 established within the department of education for
 21 administrative purposes only an early learning board, whose



1 members shall be appointed by the governor pursuant to section
2 26-34. The board shall have power, in accordance with law, to
3 formulate statewide policy relating to early learning. The
4 board shall be responsible for:

5 (1) Directing the office on how best to meet the
6 developmental and educational needs of children, from
7 prenatal care to entry into kindergarten;

8 (2) Providing recommendations to the office on improving
9 the quality, availability, and coordination of early
10 learning programs;

11 (3) Promoting collaboration across agencies and
12 stakeholders serving young children; and

13 (4) Appointing the director of the office and evaluating
14 the director on an annual basis.

15 (b) The board shall consist of the following voting
16 members:

17 ~~(1) A representative of center-based program providers or~~
18 ~~the representative's designee;~~

19 ~~(2) A representative of family child care program~~
20 ~~providers;~~



- 1 ~~(3) A representative of family child interaction learning~~
- 2 ~~program providers;~~
- 3 ~~(4) A representative of philanthropic organizations that~~
- 4 ~~support early learning or the representative's~~
- 5 ~~designee;~~
- 6 ~~(5) A representative from a head start provider agency;~~
- 7 ~~(6) A representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention~~
- 8 ~~Coordinating Council;~~
- 9 ~~(7) A parent representative;~~
- 10 ~~(8) A representative from the Hawaii chapter of the~~
- 11 ~~American Academy of Pediatrics;~~
- 12 ~~(9) A representative of home visiting program providers;~~
- 13 ~~(10) A representative of Hawaiian medium early learning~~
- 14 ~~providers; and~~
- 15 ~~(11) A representative of the Hawaii Council of Mayors, or~~
- 16 ~~the representative's designee.]~~
- 17 (1) One voting member from the county of Hawaii;
- 18 (2) One voting member from the county of Maui;
- 19 (3) One voting member from the county of Kauai;
- 20 (4) Three voting members from the city and county of
- 21 Honolulu; and



1 (5) Three at-large voting members.

2 The superintendent of education, director of human
3 services, director of health, and president of the University of
4 Hawaii shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the
5 board.

6 The board shall invite the chief executive officer of
7 Kamehameha Schools and the executive director of the Hawaii
8 Association of Independent Schools, or their designees, to serve
9 as ~~[voting]~~ ex officio, non-voting members of the board.

10 ~~[(c) Except for the superintendent of education, directors~~
11 ~~of state departments, president of the University of Hawaii,~~
12 ~~chief executive officer of Kamehameha Schools, and the executive~~
13 ~~director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, or~~
14 ~~their designees, the members of the board shall serve staggered~~
15 ~~terms as follows:~~

16 ~~(1) The representative of center based program providers~~
17 ~~shall serve a two year term;~~

18 ~~(2) The representative of family child care program~~
19 ~~providers shall serve a three year term;~~



- 1 ~~(3) The representative of family child interaction~~
- 2 ~~learning program providers shall serve a three year~~
- 3 ~~term;~~
- 4 ~~(4) The representative of philanthropic organizations that~~
- 5 ~~support early learning shall serve a two year term;~~
- 6 ~~(5) The representative from a head start provider agency~~
- 7 ~~shall serve a three year term;~~
- 8 ~~(6) The representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention~~
- 9 ~~Coordinating Council shall serve a three year term;~~
- 10 ~~(7) The parent representative shall serve a two year term;~~
- 11 ~~(8) The representative from the Hawaii chapter of the~~
- 12 ~~American Academy of Pediatrics shall serve a two year~~
- 13 ~~term;~~
- 14 ~~(9) The representative of home visiting program providers~~
- 15 ~~shall serve a three year term;~~
- 16 ~~(10) The representative of Hawaiian medium early learning~~
- 17 ~~providers shall serve a two year term; provided that~~
- 18 ~~the prohibition against serving more than two~~
- 19 ~~consecutive terms not to exceed eight consecutive~~
- 20 ~~years pursuant to section 26-34(a) shall not apply to~~



1 ~~the representative of Hawaiian medium early learning~~
2 ~~providers' term limit; and~~

3 ~~(11) The representative of the Hawaii Council of Mayors~~
4 ~~shall serve a three year term.]~~

5 (c) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the
6 governor shall set the terms of the voting members initially
7 appointed to the board as follows:

8 (1) Three voting members shall serve one-year terms;

9 (2) Three voting members shall serve two-year terms; and

10 (3) Three voting members shall serve three-year terms;

11 provided that the term of the voting members shall be three
12 years, except as provided for in the initial appointment in this
13 subsection; provided further that voting members shall serve no
14 more than three consecutive three-year terms; provided further
15 that the voting members who are initially appointed to terms of
16 two years or less pursuant to this subsection may be reappointed
17 to three ensuing consecutive three-year terms. If a voting
18 member is nominated to a second or subsequent consecutive term,
19 the senate shall consider the question of whether to reconfirm
20 the voting member at least one hundred twenty days prior to the
21 expiration of the voting member's immediately preceding term;



1 provided that if the senate has not taken final action to
2 reconfirm the voting member by the one hundred twenty-day
3 deadline, the voting member may continue to serve until the
4 senate takes final action on the reconfirmation.

5 (d) Every voting member may serve beyond the expiration
6 date of the voting member's term of appointment until the voting
7 member's successor has been appointed by the governor or
8 confirmed by the senate.

9 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) The board shall select a chairperson by a
10 majority vote of its voting members. A majority of the voting
11 members serving on the board shall constitute a quorum to
12 conduct business. The concurrence of the majority of the voting
13 members serving on the board shall be necessary to make any
14 action of the board valid.

15 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The board may form workgroups and subcommittees,
16 including with individuals who are not board members, to:

- 17 (1) Obtain resource information from early learning
18 professionals and other individuals as deemed
19 necessary by the board;
- 20 (2) Make recommendations to the board; and



1 (3) Perform other functions as deemed necessary by the
2 board to fulfill its duties and responsibilities.

3 Two or more board members, but less than a quorum, may
4 discuss matters relating to official board business in the
5 course of their participation in a workgroup or subcommittee,
6 and such discussion shall be a permitted interaction as provided
7 for in section 92-2.5.

8 [~~(f)~~] (g) The board may testify before the legislature on
9 any matter related to its duties and responsibilities.

10 [~~(g)~~] (h) Members of the board shall serve without
11 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
12 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties."

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
16 provided that the amendments made to section 302L-1.6, Hawaii
17 Revised Statutes, shall not be repealed when that section is
18 reenacted on June 30, 2025, pursuant to Act 173, Session Laws of
19 Hawaii 2021, section 3, as amended by Act 109, Session Laws of
20 Hawaii 2022, section 14.



Report Title:

Early Learning Board; Appointment; Governor

Description:

Amends the composition and qualifications of the Early Learning Board to consist of individuals from each county, instead of from particular entities or types of providers. Establishes general qualifications for the members of the Early Learning Board appointed by the Governor. (CD1)

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

