

Summary of H.B. No. 2543

A summary of what is understood from reading the bill – what the bill seems to do.
Does not speak to the intent behind the bill.

- Regarding EOEL:
 - Transfers from DOE to DHS for administrative purposes only.
 - Renames it the Learning to Grow Agency.
 - Narrows the jurisdiction of the agency to 3- to 4-year-olds or will be eligible for kindergarten within 2 years.
 - Executive Director:
 - Appointed by the Governor.
 - Evaluated annually by the Learning to Grow Board.
 - Current qualifications of the EOEL Director that are required in statute become permissive.
 - Employees:
 - Civil service employees transfer to DHS.
 - Civil-service exempt employees who are transferred to DHS may retain exempt status, but shall not be appointed to a civil service position.
 - Teachers and other classroom-level DOE employees remain with DOE.
 - Establishes the Head Start State Collaboration Office within DHS.
- Regarding the Early Learning Board:
 - Transfers from DOE to DHS for administrative purposes only.
 - Reverts from governing board to advisory board (i.e., “advise the agency on policies relating to early learning).
 - Narrows scope to 3- and 4-year-olds.
 - Evaluates but does not appoint the Executive Director.
 - 11 voting members (same as in ELB currently)
 - No longer specifies constituencies that must be represented; only those who have an interest in providing access to early learning to 3- and 4-year-olds.
 - Deletes invitation to Kamehameha Schools CEO and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools Executive Director to serve as voting members. (Assume these individuals may be one of the 11 voting members.)
 - Removes required terms of service, and staggering of terms.
 - Allows current ELB members to continue serving out the remainder of their terms.
 - Allows, rather than requires, reimbursement of expenses necessary for the performance of duties.
- Pre-Plus
 - Renames it the Pre-Plus Preschools Program.
 - Changes purpose to 3- to 4-year-olds from low-income families. (Current purpose is for children from low-income families who are not otherwise eligible for kindergarten.)
- Early Learning Trust Fund
 - Renames it the Learning to Grow Trust Fund.
 - Governor may authorize expenditures.

- Possible uses:
 - Salaries of Executive Director or Learning to Grow Agency staff
 - Construction of Learning to Grow Centers in collaboration with new School Facilities Agency.
 - If Centers are used by private providers, not less than 1/3 of enrollment must be for children at 100% FPL or less, and those children must not be charged tuition.
 - Augment salaries of private provider teachers:
 - If they meet current requirements of educators in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program; and
 - If the private entity that accepts these funds allocates not less than 1/3 of enrollment for children at 100% FPL or less, and those children are not charged tuition.
- EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program
 - Renames it the Learning to Grow Public Prekindergarten Program.
 - Extends the program beyond 4-year-olds to 3-year-olds.
 - Changes one of the criterion for prioritizing applications for schools that are interested in participating in the program from the “commitment of the principal to implementing a high-quality prekindergarten program” to “commitment to the principle of implementing a quality prekindergarten program.”
 - Commitment to the principle of implementing
 - Deletes the requirement that the program include students with disabilities based on individualized education program placement.
- Establishes the goal of providing all otherwise unserved 3- to 4-year-olds, or will be eligible for kindergarten within 2 years, with access to learning through an early learning program by the year 2030. Establishes annual benchmarks on the progress of the objective:
 - 25% by 12/31/22
 - 50% by 12/31/25
 - 75% by 12/31/28
 - 100% by 12/31/30
- Removes terms related to “education” and “educational” throughout.
- Removes terms like “high-quality” (uses “quality” instead) and “well-qualified” (uses “qualified” instead) throughout.
- Makes Learning to Grow Agency responsible for coordinating efforts to develop a qualified and effective workforce, rather the “highly-qualified, stable, and diverse” workforce that EOEL is responsible for coordinating efforts for.
- Includes a blank appropriation to establish and implement the Learning to Grow Agency and programs of the agency.
- Effective 7/1/20.