

## **Act 46 (HB 2543 H.D. 1 S.D. 2)**

### **Major Features**

#### Department of Education

- BOE & HSPCSC to adopt a KEA (Kindergarten Entry Assessment) model,
  - to be administered by schools within the first 30 days of each school year (conducted in either English or Hawaiian).
  - Information to be shared with DSH, EOEL, HSPCSC, DOE
  - Effective July 1, 2022
- Kindergarten families to disclose to the DOE, or Public Charter School at which enrolled, information about their child's attendance at an early learning program during the previous academic year.
  - Information to be used "to assist the executive office on early learning and department of human services in determining the levels of prekindergarten attendance and need for child care in geographic regions of the State and identify the highest priority regions requiring prekindergarten programs and child care to meet the needs of unserved or underserved eligible children."  
(p. 4)
  - Effective July 1, 2022
- HSPCSC is the administrative authority over all state-funded early learning programs and private partnership-funded preschool programs in public charter schools, except for special education and Title-I funded pre-K programs. (p.7, 302D-C)
  - Enrollment/classroom capped at 20, who are 3- or four- years old before 7/31 of school year;
  - Requirements (pp. 7 – 13)
  - Commission Responsibilities
  - Effective July 1, 2022

#### Executive Office of Early Learning

- Early Learning Trust Fund converted to Early Learning Special Fund (Sect. 4, p.15)
  - Administered by EOEL
  - Requires annual report by August 31 of funds deposited and expended to Leg.
- Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten
  - Administered by EOEL pursuant to rules adopted by the Office
  - State Public Charter School references eliminated from statute and EOEL authority.

#### Department of Human Services

- Preschool Open Doors Special Fund established
- Preschool Grant Program Special Fund to receive funds and award grants to private entities for operating costs of new preschools or expansion of existing ones; annual report to the Legislature
- POD providers to be accredited within 7 years of first receiving funds
- Establish or augment existing database to collect and analyze information it receives from the DOE, HSPCSC, EOEL on all 3- and 4-year old children in the State.
  - \$5M appropriation from federal funds for expansion of information technology system for 2020-21.
- POD program expanded to serve 3- and 4- year olds ("subject to the availability of funds")
  - 12 FTE positions added (no appropriation included); effective July 1, 2020

#### DHS & EOEL (effective July 1, 2024)

- shall ensure access to learning through preschool programs that meet or exceed the following benchmarks (pp. 26, 27)
  - 50% of all otherwise unserved 3- and 4-year olds by Dec. 31, 2027;
  - 100% by Dec. 31, 2027
- Submit an annual report to the legislature by August 31, addressing the progress made toward meeting the benchmarks;
- Shall collaborate to identify the need for child care and early learning in geographic regions of the State and consider public facilities including schools, libraries, and UH system as locations for child care and early learning programs.
- “DHS may create programs and private sector delivery systems that can pose the essential information and policy questions, monitor the progress of the implementation of this part and generate timely reports.” (p. 28)
- DHS facilitates and supports data sharing among public and private entities.

#### Departmental Data Sharing (effective July 1, 2022)

- DOE, UH, DLIR and other state agencies shall share data to support research that will improve educational and workforce outcomes and meet the longitudinal data requirements of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

#### Hawaiian Language Immersion

- Hawaiian Early Learning Trust Fund established; to be expended by UH Hilo
- \$5M appropriated from the Fund for 2020-21 to assist Ka Haka Ula O Keelikolani, in partnership with Imiloa Astronomy Center to build two or more classrooms for Hawaiian language medium pre-K and Hawaiian Language immersion classes

#### Libraries

- Hawaii State Public Library System, in consultation and partnership with DHS or EOEL, may establish early learning classrooms and contract for early learning services
  - Licensed by DHS or authorized by EOEL
  - Authorizing entity has oversight of program and establishes administrative rules
  - \$3M of federal funds appropriated for 2020-21