LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Early Childhood Education

REFERENCE: SB3101, SD2, HD2, CD1, Act 259 (SLH 2006)

ACTION REQUESTED: A final report of the progress, findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation from the early learning educational taskforce

DOE REPORT:
Introduction:

Since the enactment of Act 259 in July, 2006 the Department has engaged in several actions to comply with the purpose of the Act, which is to build a comprehensive early learning system by further developing and refining the recommendations of the temporary early learning educational task force (Taskforce), while acknowledging the important role of parent education and family strengthening in the overall education of young children. Specifically, the Act:

1) Establishes and appropriate funds for the Taskforce; and

2) Builds upon the existing framework and services for early childhood learning. Act 259 established a Taskforce to develop a five-year plan with annual increments for a coherent, comprehensive, and sustainable early learning system.

FINDINGS:

The Taskforce, comprised of a variety of public, private, and community agencies or organizations, is independent of the Board and the Department of Education. As such, the Department of Education’s role has been to provide administrative support to the Taskforce and to ensure that the final report is submitted to 2008 legislature in a timely manner. The Taskforce co-chairs will submit the final report to the Department of Education on December 1, 2007.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept and transmit the Taskforce’s final report through the Board of Education to the Governor and the Hawaii State Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the 2008 legislative session.