



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Education
March 13, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

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SB 1093 SD2 – RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 1093 SD2 that establishes the School Readiness Program within the State's Early Learning System. The goal is to assist families in preparing their children to succeed in school by providing access to services, prioritizing four-year-old children not eligible to attend public kindergarten and underserved or at-risk children.

Numerous studies have shown the link between children's readiness to enter school and subsequent school success. Programs that develop a child's cognitive, emotional, linguistic, social and physical readiness develop capacity for doing well in kindergarten and beyond. Furthermore, there is evidence that quality early childhood care that promotes readiness for school has longer-term effects on later achievement and adult outcomes. This has enormous social and economic implications for our community and the quality of life in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i is an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and before that, the Early Learning Council. We recognize that it is critical that the earliest foundations for citizenship, career and college readiness are first established in our youngest children through programs that support their initial readiness for school. We therefore urge your support for SB 1093 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.