



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

HB 3237 HD1  
RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Testimony Presented Before the  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2006

by

Randy Hitz, Dean  
College of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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HB 3237, HD1: Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the  
Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 3237, HD1 which establishes an inter-departmental working group to plan a state early learning system that will be accessible to all four-year-olds in the state. The rationale for quality early care and education is articulated well in the bill, and the University is fully supportive of efforts to improve early learning and care for Hawai'i's young children. The proposed working group is needed to ensure that new services provided are appropriate and efficiently operated. The investment in planning should pay large dividends in the long term. With that in mind, we urge that the suggested level of funding not be reduced.

The University is pleased to be represented on the working group and we pledge our full and enthusiastic participation.