



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 27, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

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HB 2519 HD1: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 2519 HD1 that provides funding for the early learning council and the governor's early childhood coordinator.

Recognizing that a child's positive early learning experiences have significant benefit for individual lifelong learning capacity and to society, the University concurs that it is critical and urgent to support the work of the governor's early childhood coordinator. A systematic approach toward early care and learning has the potential of enhancing existing capacity of services and use of resources. As a member of the Early Learning Council, one of the areas of highest concern to the University is the access to and relevance of educational programs for the early childhood workforce. To meet the needs of this workforce requires a coordinated approach and understanding of needs across different sectors and regions of the state. The work of the early learning council and the governor's early childhood coordinator could create such a coordinated approach that would support our own review of academic and workforce programs at the University to meet the state's needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2519 HD 1.