



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

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### HB 862: RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 862 that establishes a statewide school readiness program consisting of eligible providers of school readiness services and administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning. 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 HB 862.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.