



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Education
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HB 864: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 864 that establishes a statewide early childhood education program within the early learning system administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning. The program would prepare children for school; provide access to high-quality early childhood education; and align with K-12 standards to facilitate seamless educational experiences for children.

Given that numerous studies have shown the link between quality early childhood education, children's readiness to enter school, and subsequent school and adult outcomes, it is vitally important that early education address the multiple aspects of children's developmental needs and include standards and practices that are shown by research to be tied to better outcomes.

The University of Hawai'i recognizes that our own effectiveness as the state's public higher education system relies on the strength of the earliest foundations we establish for our youngest children. We therefore have been an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and have consistently supported the establishment of an early learning system in Hawai'i and the kind of early education described in HB 864.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.