



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 21, 2014 at 1:00 pm  
By Dr. Joanne Itano  
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University of Hawai'i System

### **HB 2276 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2276 which establishes, upon ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, an early childhood education program within the early learning system administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning.

Studies have shown the link between quality early childhood education and subsequent school and adult outcomes. As outlined in HB 2276, the early childhood education program will provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education that addresses children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development and monitor the implementation of quality standards.

The University of Hawai'i recognizes that our effectiveness as the state's public higher education system relies on the strength of the earliest foundations established for our youngest children. We therefore support the early childhood education program described in HB 2276.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.