



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Education
March 12, 2014 at 3:00 pm
By Dr. Joanne Itano
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2276 HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2276 HD1 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 HD1, 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 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.