



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services
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SB 1093: RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Chair Tokuda, Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Green, and members of the Senate Committees on Education and Human Services:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 1093 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 SB 1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.