



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 26, 2014 at 10:30 am  
By Dr. Joanne Itano  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 2826 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports SB 2826 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 SB 2826, 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 SB 2826.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.