



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
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By

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SB 1271 SD2 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 1271 SD2, appropriating stipend funds for early childhood educators to support these essential workers in their education and training endeavors.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Education supports the intent SB 1271 SD2, which provides funding for early childhood educators. There is a continuous need for early childhood positions throughout the State of Hawai'i. The early learning workforce employs the majority women, high percentage of mothers and those from underrepresented ethnic groups, working long hours in some of the lowest paid positions in the state.

We entrust these individuals with one of our most treasured clients, very young children. The delivery of high-quality professional opportunities, support for potential early childhood educators, and teacher preparation is essential to the economy and to prevent disruption in key sectors. In order to arrive at a high-quality program, the college will work closely with all interested parties to ensure academic quality and work force success.

Thank you for allowing our testimony on SB 1271 SD2.