



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 10:10 a.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 481 SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 481 SD1. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports passage SB 481 SD1. This version of the bill, SD1, removes the requirement for kindergarten entry assessments for Ka Papa Kaiapuni students.

Among the colleges of UH Hilo is Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (College), the Hawaiian language college established by statute, HRS §304A-1301. The College has a laboratory school program that includes the majority of preschools and charter schools where students are taught through Hawaiian. A large number of 'ohana in those schools have expressed their desire to have Hawaiian medium kindergartens exempt from any Board of Education and Department of Education developed kindergarten assessment. UH Hilo and the College support the will of those 'ohana.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.