

Honolulu, Hawaii

**February 12**, 2014

RE: H.B. No. 14  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker; House of Representatives  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 14 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to improve early childhood education in Hawaii by:

- (1) Making kindergarten attendance mandatory;
- (2) Requiring that, unless for specified reasons, all children who will be at least five years old by July 1 of any school year attend either a public or private school; and
- (3) Requiring the early learning system to facilitate children's transition to kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

The Executive Office on Early Learning, Hawaii State Teachers Association, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, Hawaii P-20, Good Beginnings Alliance, Hui for Excellence in Education, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Hawaii State AFL-CIO, Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, and two concerned individuals supported the measure. The Department of Human Services supported the intent of the measure. The Department of



Education supported the measure with amendments. A concerned individual opposed the measure.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Requiring that, unless for specified reasons, all children who will be at least five years old by July 31 of any school year attend either a public or private school;
- (2) Deleting the requirement that the early learning system must facilitate the transition to kindergarten of children, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children;
- (3) Establishing within the Department of Education an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system;
- (4) Requiring the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Executive Office on Early Learning, to develop a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness system to collect information and data made available through the individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system;
- (5) Inserting an appropriation of \$870,000 for the administration, training, technology, and support necessary for the establishment of the individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system and to establish four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions within the Department of Education for professional development and training of kindergarten teachers; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 14, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 14, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,



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ROY M. TAKUMI, Chair



HSCR 373-14

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Education**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">HD14</span>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">EDN, FIN</span>	<b>Date:</b> <span style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">2/5/14</span>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EDN Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TAKUMI, Roy M. (C)	✓			
2. OHNO, Takashi (VC)	✓			
3. AQUINO, Henry J.C.	✓			
4. AWANA, Karen	✓			
5. CHOY, Isaac W.	✓			
6. HANOHANO, Faye P.				✓
7. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
8. SAY, Calvin K.Y.				✓
9. TAKAI, K. Mark				✓
10. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	✓			
11. FALE, Richard Lee		✓		
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <span style="font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Takashi Ohno</span>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee             Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office             Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				