

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2009

RE: H.B. No. 395
H.D. 1
S.D. 2

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 395, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to improve the early learning system.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Prohibits public schools from moving students between junior kindergarten and kindergarten, except under certain circumstances;
- (2) Allows certain members of the Early Learning Council to be represented by a designee;
- (3) Changes the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust fund; and
- (4) Provides that unexpended moneys in the early learning trust fund shall not lapse to the credit of the general fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Your Committee finds that this measure improves the early learning system by ensuring that the developmental and early learning needs of the State's young children are addressed and



strengthens the two-tier junior kindergarten and kindergarten program by establishing stricter criteria for moving students between tiers.

Your Committee amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the provision that required moneys unexpended at the end of each fiscal year to remain in the early learning trust fund, rather than lapsing to the general fund; and
- (2) Changing the effective date of the measure to June 29, 2077, to facilitate further discussion on this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 395, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 395, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



