

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2625

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 26 2010

RE: S.B. No. 2068
S.D. 2

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2010
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred S.B. No. 2068, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Early Learning Council with the assistance of the Department of Education to assess the junior kindergarten and kindergarten program.

The measure also requires the Department of Education to report to the Legislature on its findings regarding the assessment for five years.

Your Committee conducted a public hearing on a proposed draft of this bill. The purpose of the proposed draft was to repeal the public school junior kindergarten program. The proposed draft also moved back by approximately five months the cut-off date for entering kindergarten (from being five years of age by December 31 to August 1) starting in the 2011-2012 school year.

Testimony in support of the proposed draft was submitted by the Department of Education. The Good Beginnings Alliance commented on the measure. Written testimony presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's children benefit from early learning opportunities. However, your Committee also finds that maintaining a two-tier junior kindergarten and kindergarten

SB2068 SD2 SSCR LRB 10-1954-1.doc



program is inefficient and is not cost-effective. Your Committee further finds that a single-tier kindergarten program will more efficiently provide early learning opportunities for the children of Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by replacing its contents with the contents of the proposed draft, and amending the proposed draft by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purpose of style and clarity.

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 S.B. No. 2068, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2068, S.D. 2.

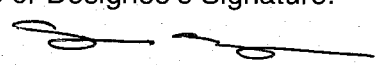
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2008 SD1	Committee Referral: EPH, WAM	Date: 2/24/10		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	/			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HEE, Clayton	/			
HOOSER, Gary L.	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	/			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N.	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred				/
TOTAL	11	0	0	1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes