

SB 1278

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Shelley Ng, Vice President of Public Policy for
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony addressed to Senate Ways and Means Committee
For hearing on March 2, Monday, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.
SB 1278 Relating to Education

'Ano'ai kakou! Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Tsutsui, and esteemed members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

As the vice president of public policy for the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC), I represent 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state. My name is Shelley Ng.

I support the SB 1278, relating to education, which prohibits movement of junior kindergarten and kindergarten students between tiers, except under certain circumstances; prohibits a junior kindergartener from directly graduating to the first grade, except under certain circumstances; establishes a separate curriculum for the junior kindergarten program; requires the department of education to staff junior kindergartens with qualified teachers and teacher aides; and appropriates funds. The Hawaii AEYC supports measures which recognize the importance of early learning. We are in support of the adoption of the Hawaii Preschool Content Standards as provided in this measure.

The staff and board of Hawaii AEYC are most willing to assist the legislature in providing information or strategies that can better inform the decision-making over this proposed measure. I invite you to contact us at (808) 942-4708.

Hawaii AEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0 – 8) and their families.

Best wishes during this legislative session.