

**Date:** 03/17/2010

**Committee:** Senate Education and Housing

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SCR 107 Requesting a Report to the Legislature Regarding Information on the Public School Junior Kindergarten Program

**Purpose of Bill:** Requests a report to the Legislature regarding information on the public school junior kindergarten program.

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education (Department) supports SCR 107 which requests a report to the Legislature regarding information on the public school junior kindergarten program with the following concerns. Item three of the report requires longitudinal data on the impact of a child's participation in junior kindergarten. It will take significant resources to collect, analyze, and report the information requested. In addition, some of the data may not be available. With reduced resources, staff, and funding, additional reporting requirements may be difficult to complete. The Department supports the young learners in our two-tiered kindergarten program. In current research literature, it is recognized that the nature of the developmental learning sequence of young children continues to be dynamic and evolving. Schools continue to utilize a range of assessment data assessing academic, social/emotional and physical domains.