

Date: 03/21/2012

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 62/HR 43 Requesting the Department of Education to Conduct Research on the Correlation Between Children Who are Late-Born and the High School Drop Out Rate

Purpose of Resolution: Requests the Department of Education to conduct research on the correlation between children who are late-born and the high school drop out rate.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) does not support HCR 62/HR 43. While correlational studies can suggest a relationship between two variables, they cannot prove a direct causal link.

There is no single reason why students drop out from school. There has been much research conducted over the years to investigate why students drop out from school. Research indicates that multiple factors are the best predictors of high school dropouts; however, there is also no group of factors that make the best predictors. Conducting research on the correlation between children who are late-born and the high school drop out rate fails to acknowledge the multiple midcourse and advanced markers on the pathway to dropping out from school.



HAWAII ASSOCIATION
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YOUNG CHILDREN

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Representative Takumi, Chair
Representative Belatti, Vice Chair
Representative Rhoads, Chair
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Subject: HCR62 – Requesting The Department Of Education To Conduct Research On The Correlation Between Children Who Are Late-Born And The High School Drop Out Rate

HAEYC supports HCR62 which requests the Department of Education to conduct research on the correlation between late-born children and the high school dropout rate. This research would help provide high-quality early learning services and programs that foster optimal development and contribute to future success.

HAEYC supports this resolution because it will provide data to support the Legislature's current efforts to ensure early education programs are available to Hawaii's late born children. Research continues to demonstrate the importance of early educational programs like the Junior Kindergarten program which currently serves late-born children. This research will support HAEYC's belief that it is crucial to fill the early learning gap for late-born children. Additionally, HAEYC supports this resolution because the research will enhance the breadth of our data and strengthen support for early learning.

HAEYC will continue to be a positive contributor to the state's transition to a true, comprehensive public/private early learning system. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at 942-4708 or haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org.

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

HAEYC'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.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC

Hawaii State House of Representatives
House Committees on Education and Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Early Learning Council
March 21, 2012

H.C.R.62 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT
RESEARCH ON THE CORRELATION BETWEEN CHILDREN WHO ARE LATE-BORN
AND THE HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUT RATE

Chairs Takumi and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Belatti and Yamashita, and Committee Members:

The Early Learning Council (“ELC”) offers this testimony in support of H.C.R.62. Established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state’s early learning system. The ELC seeks to establish a cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable early learning system that ensures a spectrum of quality early learning opportunities for young children from their prenatal period until the time they enter kindergarten. As such, the ELC focuses upon four essential areas: Early Education and Care; Health; Parent Education and Family Support; and Workforce and Professional Development.

Since its inception, the ELC has completed and received approval for a statewide early childhood system framework, has partnered and provided advice on the development of a State Quality Improvement and Rating System, has supported the drafting of professional competence requirements for early learning practitioners, and most recently completed a Fiscal Mapping study (funded by the Omidyar Foundation) to measure the resources currently available in the State for Early Childhood services (e.g. education, health, nutritional and social services, special education services and family and professional training and development. Finally, the ELC has supported the “Be My Voice” campaign, which is targeted to impact the next biennium.

ELC supports this resolution because this research will support current efforts by the Legislature to develop and maintain programs that serve “late-born” children, specifically those born after the Kindergarten deadline. This research will reinforce the ELC’s belief that early learning opportunities must be made available to “late-born” children. It is crucial they have this early educational foundation for the future.

Additionally, this research will broaden the council’s knowledge of early learning, and enable ELC to better tailor its programs and services to areas of actual need to produce high-quality early learning. Thus this resolution will support the objectives already identified by the Legislature.

Investing in early childhood education has proven economic returns, especially in Hawaii. Hawaii is one of just twelve states in the nation that does not offer widely accessible, publicly funded early education. The Economic Benefits of Investments in Early Education of Hawaii report, commissioned by Good Beginnings Alliance, shows that state investment in high-quality early learning programs is money well spent. It supports children’s cognitive, social, health conditions and emotional development, increases school readiness, improves their chances of graduating from high school, leads to higher educational attainment, and higher earnings in

adulthood.

Moreover, the benefits are not limited to children and their families. Research shows that public investments in high-quality early education programs yield long-term savings to taxpayers and state and federal governments in the form of reduced spending on education, crime, health and welfare, and increased tax revenues.

We look forward to working with legislators to provide insight regarding the important work and essential purpose of the ELC as it continues to improve and expand early learning opportunities in Hawaii.

We strongly support advancing this resolution and will work collaboratively and proactively with the legislature and the broader community to preserve and promote these early education efforts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Council