



Hearing date:
**Wednesday, Mar
16, 2011; 2:00
p.m., House
Committee on
Education
Room 309**

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Subject: **SB 1384 SD2: Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, requires children in public or private kindergarten programs to be assessed by an early learning educator prior to entering first grade to ensure the child is qualified to enter the first grade. Requires any assessment conducted by a private kindergarten program to be certified by the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools or the early learning council. Requires children who do not attend kindergarten to be assessed by DOE prior to entering first grade in a public school. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop. Good Beginnings is also a member of One Voice for Hawaii's Children (www.onevoiceforchildren.net), an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the development of an effective and equitably funded early childhood system that gives all young children the opportunity to arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed. The following information is provided to help you in your decision-making process.

We believe all children entering public school should be screened as part of an assessment process to inform instructional planning. This screening must be aligned with standards and developmental expectations as defined by early learning experts. Additionally, the screening data must not be used for placement purposes but to ensure that children's needs are being met through the design of an appropriate curriculum, differentiated instruction and attention to individual needs. The Early Learning Council and the Department of Education should also be tasked to design a statewide plan and process for implementation.

Mahalo for your consideration. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; lchun@goodbeginnings.org