



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/04/2019  
**Time:** 02:55 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0982 RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN.

**Purpose of Bill:** Changes the kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 982, in which a child who will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of the school year is eligible to enroll in public school kindergarten and provides comments for the committee's consideration.

The Department respectfully requests that the implementation for the proposed changes take effect no earlier than the school year (SY) 2020-2021 to ensure minimal impact to Department operations at the school and complex areas. At this time, Complex Area Superintendents are reviewing schools' SY 2019-2020 Academic and Financial Plan, including staffing for teachers, facility needs, and resource allocations aligned to learning priorities. At the elementary level, these plans are based on anticipated enrollment projections for entering Kindergarteners provided in the fall of 2018, and kindergarten registration has been focused on families with children who will be at least five years of age on or before July 31.

Implementation of this measure in SY 2020-21 would allow principals to strategically prepare for the increase of kindergartners including but not limited to planning with their staff, families, early learning organizations, school communities, and stakeholders.

As a suggestion, if the Legislature is amenable to the delayed implementation, the Department could provide an interim planning report.

The Department remains fully committed to providing essential learning opportunities and experiences that will set the foundation for all of Hawaii's keiki.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 982.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 2, 2019

**TO:** Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 982 – RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN.  
**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2019  
**Time:** 2:55 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 229

**Bill Description:** Changes the kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Comments**

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL respectfully offers comments on S.B. 982.

We note that should the Legislature enact this measure, the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program would have to align with the change in kindergarten entry age, as the Program "shall serve children in the year prior to the year of kindergarten eligibility," pursuant to section 302L-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

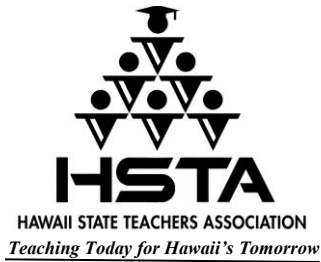
We also respectfully note that this measure would turn back the actions of S.B. 2545 (enacted as Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012), which changed the kindergarten entry age cutoff to July 31. We understand the intent of that legislation was multi-fold:

- Adequate research exists to make the argument that it is better for older children to start kindergarten. Punahou and Iolani admit boys with birthdays in June and girls with birthdays in September.
- Hawaii with its then-entry age cutoff of December 31 was an outlier in the country. Most states have earlier cutoff dates.

Regardless of the environment, we strongly believe a child must be placed in an age-appropriate setting with developmentally appropriate teaching practices in order for teaching to be most effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

*EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.*



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Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 982 - RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 982**, which changes the Kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.

This measure would change the requirement for enrolling in Kindergarten from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31. Unfortunately, as the Hawaii DOE public schools no longer offer Junior Kindergarten for this age group, this change has caused a gap in services to our children in our communities whom we once referred to as “late born” Kindergarteners who will turn five years old after the current July 31<sup>st</sup> cutoff. We need to include these children in Kindergarten, as we did before. Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs for these children, due to their later birthdate, is not always within the financial reach of many of our public school students’ families, and thus they will not have the benefit of pre-k programs if left out of our Kindergarten classes. We need to include this group again within Kindergarten. .

As noted by an MIT working group on the topic, investments in early childhood education pay dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting economic vitality. Early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students and this includes Kindergarten. It is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are enrolled in quality early learning programs at this young age, by offering Kindergarten to all our young children who will turn five in a given year.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support SB 587**.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 3, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 982 - RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN**

Hearing: Monday, February 4, 2019, 2:55 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** This measure proposes to change the kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.

DHS suggests that if this measure is adopted the effective date be delayed to July 1, 2020, rather than upon approval as currently drafted, for the following reasons.

Currently the Department of Education's (DOE) public schools, public pre-kindergarten classrooms administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning's (EOEL), and the licensed group child care centers in communities (i.e. private preschools) are currently in the process of accepting registrations or applications for enrollment.

As mandated by Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2013, DHS operates the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program. POD is the statewide school readiness program that prioritizes "late-born" children born between August 1 to December 31 who would not be

eligible to attend kindergarten as section 302A-411, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is currently written. The purposes of POD are to :

- (1) Provide access to school readiness services that address children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development;
- (2) Require each provider to conduct school readiness assessments;
- (3) Give priority to children from low- and moderate-income families; and
- (4) Prepare children for school through either of the State's two official languages.

The POD program is currently accepting applications for the 2019 – 2020 POD year and will be notifying eligible families by April 29, 2019 of their eligibility for the POD program subsidies.

If the measure takes effect upon approval, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL), DHS, and the Department of Education (DOE) would need to quickly work to disseminate information to families, preschools, and community stakeholders statewide regarding the change in the kindergarten entry age. A change to the kindergarten entry age in May 2019 may confuse families, and there would be little time for the EOEL, DOE, and DHS to inform families to ensure that families whose children (birthdates: August 1 – December 31) do not make the DOE kindergarten entry age per section 302A-411, HRS, as currently written, to now ensure that they enroll their children for DOE kindergarten starting in August 2019.

Lastly, families who may want to delay their child's entry to kindergarten because their child may not be ready or prepared for kindergarten, would be required to enroll their child in kindergarten rather than have their child experience a year of preschool.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:45:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
lisa higa	Testifying for Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senator Kidani and Senator Kim and Committee Members,

We are the principals of Nanakuli and Nanaikapono Elementary schools and we request your support of SB982: Relating to Kindergarten. This bill will allow our young children in Nanakuli the support they need to overcome their lack of exposure to language and literacy. It is critical for communities like ours, with students far from opportunities, to have language-rich preschools and kindergartens.

Thank you for your support and consideration on SB982.

Mahalo-

Principal Debra Knight and Principal Lisa Higa

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:27:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt Ho	Testifying for State of Hawai'i, Department of Education, Castle-Kahuku Complex Area	Support	No

Comments:

**Supporting the Intent of SB 982, with a Delayed School Year 2020-21 Implementation Date:**

On behalf of the sixteen schools in the Castle-Kahuku Complex Area, we support the Intent of SB 982. This measure assists the Hawai'i Department of Education's commitment to provide early childhood learning experiences for our communities.

We are requesting a delayed implementation of this measure however, to school year 2020-2021--this will provide our schools and programs sufficient preparation time and possibly securing qualified teachers if needed, and providing time to notify and prepare our school communities of the change.

Thank you.

Matthew C.W. Ho

Complex Area Superintendent

Castle-Kahuku Complex Area



**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:42:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sean Tajima	Testifying for Hawaii Department of Education, Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area	Comments	No

Comments:

**The Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area supports the intent of SB 982 with a delayed SY2020-21 implementation date. Thank you for your consideration.**

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:56:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
keith hui	Testifying for Dept of Education: Leeward District: Pearl City/Waipahu Complex Area	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Pearl City and Waipahu Complex Area Schools, I am supporting the intent of the measure and asking for a delay in implementation; suspend for SY 2019-2020, implement in SY 2020-2021. Mahalo.

Keith Hui,

Complex Area Superintendent

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:23:30 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Dimino	Testifying for Department of Education	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is a recent study that was conducted by researchers at Stanford University that indicated that children who started kindergarten at age six were better prepared to focus on academic tasks than other children who started at 5 (Spector, 2017). The implications of this research on the ideas presented by SB982 are that having children start school before they are five is not conducive to a child's readiness to learn. I was a principal at an elementary school during the transition time when the start up age changed a few years back.

I remember the 4 year olds who were in the K classes prior to the change. It did take them longer to adjust to the routines, and our RTI groups had larger amounts of students in the lower tiers. We had to create transition classes for those 4 year olds who were not ready to move to first grade. This meant there were a large number of children repeating kindergarten. Our 4 year olds do need to have access to early education, which is being addressed with another Hawaii initiative. Lets focus on finding the proper education for them instead of rushing them into an academic setting they are not ready for.

Written by:

Kathleen Dimino, Complex Area Superintendent - Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui Complex

Supported by:

Chris Bachaus, Principal Kula Elementary

Paula Inouye, Principal Waihee Elementary

Chad Okamoto, Principal Puukukui Elementary

Keoni Welhelm, Principal Kahului Elementary

Amy Strand, Principal Pukalani Elementary



**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:05:18 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William N. Arakaki	Testifying for Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 982, in which a child who will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of the school year is eligible to enroll in public school kindergarten and provides comments for the committee's consideration.

The Department respectfully requests that the implementation for the proposed changes take effect no earlier than the SY 2020-2021 to ensure minimal impact to Department operations at the school and complex areas. At this time, Complex Area Superintendents are reviewing schools' SY 2019-2020 Academic and Financial Plans, including staffing for teachers, facility needs, and resource allocations aligned to learning priorities. At the elementary level, these plans are based on anticipated enrollment projections for entering Kindergartners provided in the fall of 2018, and kindergarten registration has been focused on families with children who will be at least five years of age on or before July 31.

Implementation of this measure in SY 2020-21 will allow for principals to strategically prepare for the increase of kindergartners including but not limited to planning with their staff, families, early learning organizations, school communities and stakeholders.

As a suggestion, if the Legislature is amenable to the delayed implementation, the Department could provide an interim planning report.

The Department remains fully committed to providing the essential learning opportunities and experiences that will set the foundation for all Hawaii's keiki.

Thanks you for this opportunity to provide testimony for SB 982.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 7:56:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bob Davis	Testifying for DOE	Support	Yes

Comments:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 982, in which a child who

will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of the school year is eligible to enroll

in public school kindergarten and provides comments for the committee's consideration.

The Department respectfully requests that the implementation for the proposed changes take

effect no earlier than the school year (SY) 2020-2021 to ensure minimal impact to Department

operations at the school and complex areas. At this time, Complex Area Superintendents are

reviewing schools' SY 2019-2020 Academic and Financial Plan, including staffing for teachers,

facility needs, and resource allocations aligned to learning priorities. At the elementary level,

these plans are based on anticipated enrollment projections for entering Kindergarteners

provided in the fall of 2018, and kindergarten registration has been focused on families with

children who will be at least five years of age on or before July 31.

Implementation of this measure in SY 2020-21 would allow principals to strategically prepare for

the increase of kindergartners including but not limited to planning with their staff, families, early

learning organizations, school communities, and stakeholders.

As a suggestion, if the Legislature is amenable to the delayed implementation, the Department

could provide an interim planning report.

The Department remains fully committed to providing essential learning opportunities and

experiences that will set the foundation for all of Hawaii's keiki.

Thank you for this opportunity

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:31:29 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Aiwohi	Testifying for Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill with the intent of a delay to implement during the 2020-2021 School Year.



**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:38:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chesne Cabral Kitamura	Testifying for Department of Education- Kauai Complex Area	Support	No

Comments:

The Department of Education- Kauai Complex Area **supports** SB 982, in which a child who will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of the school year is eligible to enroll in public school kindergarten and provides comments for th committee's consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 982.

Chesne Cabral Kitamura, DES- SBBH/ASD



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**HONOLULU DISTRICT OFFICE**  
4967 KILAUEA AVENUE  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

**LATE**

To: Senate Education Committee

From: Linell Dilwith, Complex Area Superintendent  
Kaimuki, McKinley, Roosevelt Complex Areas

Re: SB 982

I am in support of the intent of SB 982, in which a child who will be at least five years of age on or before December 31 of the school year is eligible to enroll in public school kindergarten.

However, please hold off on implementation for the proposed changes until the school year (SY) 2020-2021 to ensure minimal impact to Department operations at the school and complex areas.

Implementation of this measure in SY 2020-21 would allow principals to strategically prepare for the increase of kindergartners including but not limited to planning with their staff, families, early learning organizations, school communities, and stakeholders.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:43:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Walter Santiago	Testifying for Department of Education	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 982 because it gives the opportunity for children in Hawaii to get an early jump start in their educational journey. But I stand with my departments request to that SB 982 be implemented in SY 2020 - 2021 so the department, schools, and programs are adequately prepared to support our early learners. Mahalo on your introduction of this bill.

Walter Santiago



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Kāneʻohe Elementary School  
45-495 Kamehameha Highway  
Kaneohe, HI 96744  
Phone 808-305-0000 • Fax 808-235-9185

**LATE**

**Date:** 02/04/2019

**Time:** 02:55 PM

**Location:** 229

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education  
**Person Testifying:** Derek Minakami, NBCT, Principal of Kāneʻohe Elementary School  
**Title of Bill:** SB 0982 RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN.  
**Purpose of Bill:** Changes the kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.

**Position:** Support

I support the intent of SB 0982 as I predict it will have a positive impact on students and families.

As of this date, there is no consensus regarding the ideal kindergarten start age and I can understand why given my ten years of experience working at the elementary level. Each year, we receive a cohort of 80 to 100 kindergarteners spanning the range of maturation and school readiness. Just as students grow taller in fits and starts with imperceptible development punctuated by growth spurts, they mature in a similar fashion. Further, this uneven rate of growth appears to be independent of birth date.

In other words, we've had students born in November and December more ready to start kindergarten than some born 10 months prior. So when the kindergarten start age changed five years ago, a significant cohort of students was forced to remain in preschool, paying tuition, despite being kindergarten ready.

We also had students born after July 31, whose families opted to send their child to private school for kindergarten with the intent of enrolling their children in public school for first grade. Since we receive only a couple of late-born students each year coming from a private school into first grade, I assume the majority decide to remain in private school.

Another more significant cohort of families do not enroll their children in pre-school and will delay their late-born children from attending school for an additional year. This represents the loss of an opportunity where we can work with the children on developing their language, social and thinking skills.

Should this bill pass, we will better able to serve all students ready for kindergarten or not.

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 1:52:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lanaly Cabalo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the lowering the age to 5 years by Dec. 31 because it benefits the late-born children who are of advanced cognitive abilities. However, I would support a parent who wanted to wait until her/his child is ready to enter (ie, if the child was 4 years old turning 5 in Dec, but wanted to wait till the child was 5 turning 6). SB 982 helps parents, like me, who have gifted children who are capable of entering Kindergarten at an earlier age than some.

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 1:02:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lanelle Hibbs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As Complex Area Superintendent, I am supporting the intent of SB 0982 with a delayed SY2020-2021 implementation date. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:46:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debra Knight	Testifying for Nanaikapono Elementary	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kidani, Kim and Committee:

I fully support SB982: Relating to Kindergarten and would appreciate your support of this important measure to increase the success of the children of Nanakuli valley.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:49:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sheldon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 4:14:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ray Pikelny	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:26:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Addis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 5:34:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randall Miura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB982

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:13:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Yuuko Arikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- I support SB 0982 with implementation delayed until SY 2020-21.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:43:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Don Barrett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:59:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Matsuzaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the intent with a delayed SY 2020-21 implementation date.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:49:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexandra Obra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**I am supporting the intent with a delayed SY2020-21 implementation date.**

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:28:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eliza Kaka	Testifying for Laie Elementary	Support	No

Comments:

I support the intent of SB 982 with a delayed school year 2020-21 implementation date.



**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:28:30 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ofelia Reed	Testifying for Iroquois Point Elem. School	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Ofelia Reed, Principal at Iroquois Point Elem. School.

I support the intent with a delayed SY2020-21 implementation date. Delaying the implementation date will assist elementary schools in planning and ensuring that the school is better prepared to receive the increase in enrollment due to the change in the age requirement for kindergarten students.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:29:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keoni Inciong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Submitting is support of SB 982.

Mahalo.

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:41:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Yoshida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of Bill SB0982 related to Kindergarten.

Thank You,

Jason Yoshida

Principal

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:37:20 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James A Sines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of the intent with delayed SY2020-2021 implementatin date

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:39:28 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimi Ikeda	Testifying for Ahuimanu Elementary	Support	No

Comments:

I support the intent of SB 982 with a delayed school year 2020-21 implementation date.

**LATE**

February 1, 2019

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senator  
Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Senate  
Committee on Education

From: Laura Nevitt, Director of Public Policy  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **S.B. 982– Relating to Kindergarten**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229 , February 4, 2019, 2:55 PM**

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**HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. S.B. 982 would change the kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.**

HCAN strongly opposes the change of the start age and recommends keeping it at its current time-frame

The majority of states in the United States have a August/September start date  
[https://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5\\_3.asp](https://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_3.asp)

Because kindergarten has become much more academic, we want to ensure that our keiki are developmentally ready and potentially starting kindergarten at 4 1/2 is too early.

Starting at kindergarten at a later age is associated with better social-behavioral outcomes during elementary school, reduces the likelihood of having to repeat a grade and can help reduce inattention and hyperactivity

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee not pass S.B. 982.**

*HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.*

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:10:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lindsay Ball	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is a recent study that was conducted by researchers at Stanford University that indicated that children who started kindergarten at age six were better prepared to focus on academic tasks than other children who started at 5 (Spector, 2017). The implications of this research on the ideas presented by SB982 are that having children start school before they are five is not conducive to a child's readiness to learn.

For example, if a kindergarten student has a birthdate in January and starts schools with other kindergarteners that were born in July, that is a 6 month gap developmentally, as they would start school in August together. If December born kindergarten students started in August with the January born peer, that is an 11 month developmental gap. That creates a large gap within a kindergarten classroom.

I was a principal at an elementary school when those large classroom developmental gaps were occurring. Those kindergarteners born late in the calendar year needed longer to adjust to the routines. Intervention groups had larger number of students in the lower tiers. Schools had to create transition classes for those 4 year olds who were not ready to move to first grade. Our kindergarten teachers had frequent conversations with parents about the possibility of retaining their child for another year of kindergarten. Our 4 year olds do need to have access to early education, which is being addressed with another Hawaii initiative. The focus on finding the proper education for them instead of rushing them into an academic setting they are not ready for.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 3:36:13 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gary Yasui	Testifying for Holomua Elementary School	Comments	No

Comments:

**As the Principal of Holomua Elementary School, I support the intent of SB 982, with a delayed SY 2020-21 implementation date. Thank you for your consideration.**



**To:** Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

**From:** Robert G. Peters, EdD

**Subject:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 982 – Relating to Kindergarten  
**Hearing Date:** Feb. 4, 2019  
**Time:** 2:55 pm  
**Location:** Room 229

**Description:** Changes the kindergarten start age from five years of age by July 31 to five years of age by December 31.

**Position:** Comments

I am Robert G. Peters offering comments as a long-time educator and the retired Head of Hanahauoli School, and not in my capacity as Chair of the Early Learning Board. The Board has not had the opportunity to address the bill and take a position.

I would respectfully ask the Committee to consider the rationale and need for such a change, given that this measure would turn back S.B. 2545, Act 178, which changed the kindergarten entry age cutoff to July 31<sup>st</sup> in 2012. At that time, Hawaii was identified as an outlier with a December 31<sup>st</sup> entry age cutoff when compared nationally. Locally, it was generally out of sync with private schools who generally set cut-off dates for boys at the end of June and for girls September.

What is key in any decision to change entry age is the developmental appropriateness of such a move. I would urge the committee to investigate what current research indicates about the general correlation between age of entry and successful transition to kindergarten to determine the impact of making a change to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-982**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:32:01 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/4/2019 2:55:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
chad	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please consider the following concerning the start of this measure:

Implementation of this measure in SY 2020-21 would allow principals to strategically prepare for the increase of kindergartners including but not limited to planning with their staff, families, early learning organizations, school communities, and stakeholders.