

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

468

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 , 2021

RE: H.B. No. 1360  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B.  
No. 1360 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish an Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning to address the shortage of qualified early childhood educators in Hawaii; and
- (2) Require stipend fund repayments for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program to be deposited into the Early Learning Special Fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Public Charter School Commission, Executive Office on Early Learning, Early Learning Board, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, Parents And Children Together, Kaulanakilohana, and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General and Department of Human Services.

2021-1657 HB1360 HD1 HSCR HMSO



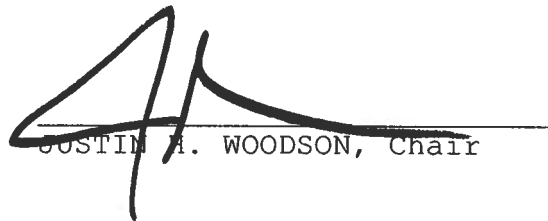
Your Committee finds that the demand for quality early care and education far exceeds the amount of available and qualified early childhood educators. Your Committee further finds that preschool teachers are amongst the lowest paid occupations, making an average less than many non-skilled positions such as parking lot attendants. This measure will support those individuals seeking to become high-quality early childhood educators, thereby moving the State toward reaching its goal of increasing access to high-quality early learning programs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Exempting the Executive Office on Early Learning from the prohibition of contracting with a collection agency to collect from a debtor a commission;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2050; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1360, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1360, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Education,

  
JUSTIN A. WOODSON, Chair



