

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 2021

RE: S.B. No. 1271  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 1271 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent 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 Executive Office on Early Learning, State Public Charter School Commission, Early Learning Board, Kaulanakilohana, Children's Action Network Speaks!, Early Childhood Action Strategy, National Association of School Psychologists, and three individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and the Department of the Attorney General.



Your Committee finds that the demand for quality early care and education far exceeds the amount of available and qualified early childhood educators. The legislature also finds that preschool teachers are amongst the lowest paid occupations, making an average less than many non-skilled positions such as parking lot attendants. Moreover, it is difficult to attract individuals to this highly specialized field with such low pay and the common misperception that preschool teachers are babysitters. 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) Specifying that a collection agency that is contracted by the Executive Office on Early Learning shall be allowed to collect a commission; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 S.B. No. 1271, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1271, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

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

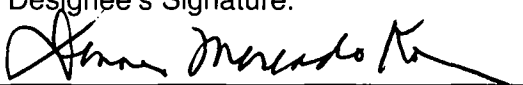


MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-First Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Education**  
**EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* <b>SB 1271</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EDU, WAM</b>	Date: <b>02/05/2021</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	/			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes