

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1273

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025

RE: H.B. No. 549
H.D. 3
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Education, to which
was referred H.B. No. 549, H.D. 3, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AN EARLY LEARNING
APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish an
Early Learning Apprenticeship Grant Program, to be administered by
the University of Hawaii, to assist publicly- or privately-run
early learning program service providers participating in state-
and federally-approved early learning apprenticeship programs.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Human Services, Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
Executive Office on Early Learning, Early Learning Board,
University of Hawai'i System, Department of Community Services of
the City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Speaks!, Pride at Work - Hawai'i, Parents and Children Together,
AAUW of Hawaii, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Commit to Keiki,
Holomua Collaborative, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committees find that high-quality early learning
programs are essential to the growth and development of children,
assist working families in securing and sustaining employment and
economic vitality, and benefit the economy. Your Committees



further find that the State is experiencing a significant shortage of qualified early learning professionals as the early learning sector struggles with recruitment, retention, and fair compensation. Your Committees additionally find that registered apprenticeship programs offer a potential solution, providing businesses with well-trained and qualified employees while also ensuring that employees are fairly compensated commensurate to the necessary qualifications. This measure will facilitate the participation of early learning service providers in early learning apprenticeship programs, improving the recruitment and retention of early learning professionals in the State.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Education that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 549, H.D. 3, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 549, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and Education,



MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB 549 HD 3	Committee Referral: HRE/EDU, NAM	Date: 3/17/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> <div>Distribution:</div> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

**Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU**

*Only one measure per Record of Votes