STAND. COM. REP. NO.

Honolulu, Hawaii

## MAR 1 9 2025

RE: H.B. No. 429

H.D. 1 S.D. 1

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

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 429, H.D. 1, 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 appropriate funds to hire teachers and teacher assistants and for equipment and services for public preschools.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Department of Human Services; State Public Charter School Commission; Executive Office on Early Learning; Early Learning Board; Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Hawaiii State Teachers Association; Hawaiii Business Roundtable; Democratic Party of Hawaii; Kamehameha Schools; Linapuni Elementary School; Helemano Elementary School; Lanaii High and Elementary School; Kaiulani Elementary School; Kaiala Elementary School; Kalihi Elementary School; Hāna High and Elementary School; and four individuals.

Your Committee finds that access to public preschool programs provides the State's youngest students with critical development in the skills necessary for kindergarten readiness and future academic careers. However, the State is experiencing a chronic

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shortage of educators, including highly qualified early childhood teachers and assistants. Additionally, as public preschool classrooms are built on existing school campuses, ensuring adequate equipment and services for prospective and current students will allow the State to achieve its commitment to provide free universal public preschool education to all children. Therefore, this measure extends support for public preschool programs to expand and maintain existing educational operations.

Your Committee has amended this measure by inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

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. 429, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 429, H.D. 1, 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-Third Legislature State of Hawai'i

## Record of Votes Committee on Education EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:			Date:	
HB429, HDI	EDU. WAM 3/12/2025				
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.					
If so, then the previous decision was to:					
The Recommendation is:					
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313					
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)					
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)					
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.					
KANUHA, Dru Mamo		/			
DECORTE, Samantha					
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TOTAL	<u> </u>	5			
Recommendation:  Adopted Not Adopted					
Chair's or Designee's Signature:  Among Mercado Ke					
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy					

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes