

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

149

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04

, 2025

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

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 549 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for 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 Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; University of Hawai'i System; Department of Human Services; Early Learning Board; Executive Office on Early Learning; Department of Community Services of the City and County of Honolulu; Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project; Puakalehua Early Learning Consortium; Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers; American Association of University Women of Hawaii; Early Childhood Action Strategy; Keiki o Ka Aina Preschool, Inc.; Parents and Children Together; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Chamber of Commerce Hawaii; and numerous individuals. Your Committee

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received comments on this measure from the Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that the establishment of an Early Learning Apprenticeship Grant Program will provide opportunities to support the recruitment, retention, and professional development of early learning professionals in a career field that has been experiencing a continuous shortage of qualified caregivers and staff for early learning programs.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending the preamble to declare that the establishment of an Early Learning Apprenticeship Grant Program is a matter of statewide concern;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; 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 Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 549, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 549, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness.

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



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HD 549</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HED, HSH, FIN</i>	Date: <i>01.31.2025</i>
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The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold
 Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
9. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
11. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (11)	11			

The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted
 If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: *Jerry Cant*

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