

FOURTEENTH DAY

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

The Senate of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2000, convened at 11:35 o'clock a.m. with the President in the Chair.

The Divine Blessing was invoked by Lieutenant Kyle Smith, Leeward Corps Community Center, Salvation Army, after which the Roll was called showing all Senators present.

The President announced that he had read and approved the Journal of the Thirteenth Day.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The following messages from the Governor (Gov. Msg. Nos. 143 and 144) were read by the Clerk and were placed on file:

Gov. Msg. No. 143, letter dated February 4, 2000, as provided in Section 9, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, requesting the immediate consideration and passage of S.B. No. 2858, which makes supplementary emergency appropriations of \$4,075,000 of general funds and authorization to increase federal expenditure appropriations by \$4,243,025 in fiscal year 2000 for the Medical Assistance Program.

Gov. Msg. No. 144, letter dated February 3, 2000, as provided in Section 9, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, requesting immediate consideration and passage of S.B. No. 2750, which makes supplementary appropriations in fiscal year 2000 for operating expenses in the Department of Accounting and General Services, Information and Communication Services Division.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications from the House (Hse. Com. Nos. 9 and 10) were read by the Clerk and were disposed of as follows:

Hse. Com. No. 9, returning S.B. No. 1345, S.D. 2, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on February 7, 2000, in an amended form, was placed on file.

By unanimous consent, action on S.B. No. 1345, S.D. 2, H.D. 2, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IN THE JUDICIARY," was deferred until Wednesday, February 9, 2000.

Hse. Com. No. 10, transmitting H.B. No. 1691, H.D. 1, which passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives on February 7, 2000, was placed on file.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, H.B. No. 1691, H.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION," passed First Reading by title and was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs, then to the Committee on Ways and Means.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2017) recommending that S.B. No. 2108, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2108, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO

THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2018) recommending that S.B. No. 2109, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2109, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2019) recommending that S.B. No. 2111 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2111, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS SALARY COMMISSION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2020) recommending that S.B. No. 2117 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2117, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PROJECT FAITH," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2021) recommending that S.B. No. 2513, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2513, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CONVEYANCE TAX," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2022) recommending that S.B. No. 2514, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2514, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATERSHED PROTECTION," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2023) recommending that S.B. No. 2529, as amended in S.D. 1, pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2529, S.D. 1, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO A LAND EXCHANGE IN NORTH KONA, HAWAII," passed

Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2024) recommending that S.B. No. 2842 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2842, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, AS AMENDED," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Senator Hanabusa, for the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs, presented a report (Stand. Com. Rep. No. 2025) recommending that S.B. No. 2843 pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

On motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the report of the Committee was adopted and S.B. No. 2843, entitled: "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, AS AMENDED," passed Second Reading and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ORDER OF THE DAY

RE-REFERRAL OF SENATE BILLS

The Chair re-referred the following Senate bills that were introduced:

- | Senate Bill | Referred to: |
|-------------|---|
| No. 2299 | Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs and the Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| No. 2303 | Jointly to the Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| No. 2347 | Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| No. 2783 | Jointly to the Committee on Education and Technology, the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Economic Development, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |
| No. 3052 | Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs, then to the Committee on Ways and Means |

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Misc. Com. No. 9, from the Joint Legislative Committee on Early Childhood Education and Care, dated January 20, 2000, transmitting the joint legislative committee report pursuant to H.C.R. No. 120 (1998), establishing a joint legislative committee on early childhood education and care, was read by the Clerk and was placed on file.

The Chair having so ordered, Misc. Com. No. 9 is identified as ATTACHMENT "A" to the Journal of this day.

Senator Kanno, for the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, requested a waiver of the 72-hour Notice of a Public Hearing on the following bills:

- S.B. No. 2166;
- S.B. No. 2326;
- S.B. No. 2356;
- S.B. No. 2783;
- S.B. No. 2787;
- S.B. No. 2799;
- S.B. No. 3002;
- S.B. No. 3055; and
- S.B. No. 3143,

and the Chair granted the waiver.

Senator Anderson rose on a point of information and stated:

"Mr. President, I rise on a point of information.

"Mr. President, recently we all received a communication from Senator Ihara that we all vote on conference committees, on every conference committee. I did send a letter to everybody, and to date, I have had no response.

"Also, in the standing committees, I asked if we could have a committee report such as this and a copy of the amendments that are going to be passed on a particular bill on that day so that we could vote more intelligently. I think every committee should provide this.

"In days past, this would have been circulated and we could have signed 'yes,' 'no,' or 'indifferent,' 'aye,' 'reservations,' or 'I do not concur.' I don't expect anything that elaborate because we don't do it anymore. However, I think that we are entitled to know what the amendments are going to be. And if we're going to have to extend a little longer, Mr. President -- our deadline is internal -- we can do that. I think it's very important to finish our legislative business properly.

"I was wondering if you received my communication and if it is being considered or how are we going to work it?"

The Chair replied:

"We have asked all Senators for their input in terms of that specific proposal."

Senator Anderson continued:

"Okay. If I may, for instance, on these -- if you were running against Whitney Anderson, I'm excused from committee voting, but I go to my committee meetings. I know what the committee's bills involve and what the amendments are going to be. But I go to another committee because it doesn't have a quorum. Then I have to vote 'with reservations' because I don't know what those bills are about.

"And those are the kinds of things that are very upsetting to me because I sit on five or six different committees. So, Senator Slom and I really don't have as much opportunity as some. Some people really don't care. They'll go in and vote, regardless if they know what's on the bill or not. I don't do that.

"So those are the reasons, Mr. President. Thank you very much."

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:49 o'clock a.m., on motion by Senator Chun, seconded by Senator Slom and carried, the Senate adjourned until 11:30 o'clock a.m., Wednesday, February 9, 2000.

ATTACHMENT "A"

MISC. COMM. NO. 9

JNT. LEG. COM. REP. NO. 1

Honolulu, Hawaii

January 20, 2000

RE: H.C.R. No. 120
 H.D. 1
 S.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
 Speaker, House of Representatives
 Twentieth State Legislature
 Interim of 1999
 State of Hawaii

Honorable Norman Mizuguchi
 President of the Senate
 Twentieth State Legislature
 Interim of 1999
 State of Hawaii

Sirs:

Your Joint Legislative Committee on Early Childhood Education and Care, appointed pursuant to H.C.R. No. 120, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, adopted by the Legislature during the Regular Session of 1998, begs leave to report as follows:

PART I: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Joint Legislative Committee on Early Childhood Education and Care (Committee) believes that the goal that "all children will be safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school" will be realized when the State enhances, develops, and coordinates early childhood education and care services. Your Committee finds that the Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is a critical link for early childhood education and care efforts, as GBA is the focal point for policy development, disbursement of public funds, and implementation of early childhood community plans.

After two years of discussions and presentations on the status of the statewide early childhood education and care system, your Committee finds that the components of a quality system of care are in place, and that GBA is truly the link and focal point for policy development, disbursement of public funds, and implementation of early childhood community plans. Therefore, your Committee recommends that the Legislature:

- (1) Make GBA a permanent coordinating structure that cuts across existing social service systems to coordinate early childhood services for families with young children, as well as appropriate funds to implement GBA's initiatives;
- (2) Support the Department of Human Service's (DHS) budget request, and give DHS the flexibility to meet early childhood education and care demands; and

- (3) Support the Office of Community Services' (OCS) budget request for Head Start programs.

Your Committee believes that these recommendations will ensure the development of a comprehensive early childhood education and care system by:

- (1) Supporting GBA's partnership with communities to create statewide public education campaigns regarding the importance of quality early childhood experiences;
- (2) Supporting DHS' efforts to provide higher child care subsidy reimbursement rates to National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited preschools and licensed providers;
- (3) Maintaining and expanding the executive budget request of \$39,000,000 in child care subsidies for low-income and gap group families to provide early childhood education and care;
- (4) Encouraging the Director of Health's advisory group, established in section -4 of Act 304, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1999, to recommend a substantial proportion of the Tobacco Settlement Special Funds for prevention in the areas of maternal and child health and development programs, such as an expansion of Healthy Start and early childhood education and care;
- (5) Encouraging the executive branch to explore additional resources for professional training for early childhood providers;
- (6) Supporting GBA's efforts to increase a child's readiness to succeed in school by partnering with Alii Trust and the government to expand the availability of Keiki Play Mornings and other community-based initiatives that strengthen parent-child quality interaction;
- (7) Maintaining and expanding state funding for Head Start in OCS' budget, while better utilizing funds to expand it to a full-day/full-year child care program; and
- (8) Supporting the partnership between GBA and the Department of Education (DOE) to provide early childhood programs in school settings -- "getting children ready for school, and schools ready for children."

Through GBA, the Legislature will be able to continue monitoring the development of a coordinated system that is dedicated to enhancing and developing early childhood education and care services.

PART II: IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

Recent research reveals that infants' brains develop earlier and more rapidly than previously understood, and that the early years of a child are most crucial in the child's cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development. A growing body of research indicates that good early childhood education and care programs can lead to school success, reduced delinquency and crime, and better job opportunities and productivity in both the short- and long-term.

Several recent multistate studies specifically found that quality child care is associated with better language and cognitive skills. A National Institute of Child Health and Human Development study found that children in child care centers that met more quality standards had better language comprehension and school readiness, and had fewer behavioral problems. The study, which tracked children through their first eight years, also found that higher quality care was related to better mother-child relationships.

A 1999 update of another study, "Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers," indicated that the quality of care matters. It confirmed early findings that children in good quality child care centers are more likely to have better academic and social skills by the time they enter second grade. Specifically, this longitudinal study linked high child care classroom quality with better language and math skills. At the same time, it found that children who attended child care centers where there were good child-teacher relationships had better social skills and fewer behavioral problems.

Other research has connected early childhood education and care with positive long-term child outcomes. It was found that good early childhood education and care programs for low-income children lead to academic success, better job achievement, and half as many arrests later in life. Studies have established overwhelming evidence that early childhood education and care programs can produce sizable improvements in school success. Four random studies on children in early childhood education and care programs found long-term, statistically significant positive effects on standardized achievement tests that measure reading and math ability and knowledge. A 1998 RAND report summarized several research projects that found early intervention programs, such as comprehensive preschool programs, generate savings to the government through increased tax revenues, decreased welfare outlays, reduced spending on health, education, and social services, and lower criminal justice costs.

Neuroscience research in early brain development, as well as studies in early child development, affirm not only the tremendous opportunities for preventive work with children and families, but also the predictable, costly consequences of not doing so.

PART III: GOOD BEGINNINGS ALLIANCE

GBA, established by Act 77, SLH 1997, is a public-private partnership charged with the responsibility to improve early childhood outcomes through the development of quality early childhood education and care and related family support services. Specifically, GBA must develop policy recommendations concerning all aspects of a coordinated early childhood education and care system, including coordination strategies, resource development, and advocacy, more particularly described in the Good Beginnings Early Childhood Education and Care Master Plan.

During its first year of formal operation, collaborative efforts were focused on two primary goals to:

- (1) Build and solidify a partnership framework at the community, county, and state levels with the capacity of positively impacting child and family outcomes; and
- (2) Increase public awareness of the importance of a child's early years to assure healthy child outcomes and school readiness.

During the second year of formal operation, GBA partners were committed to further strengthening its operational framework, increasing its capacity to impact primary outcomes predominantly at the community level, and, most importantly, garnering broad support around early childhood indicators. The collaborative efforts focused on the following outcomes:

- (1) Increase public awareness of the importance of early childhood;
- (2) Adopt a results-based accountability system linking performance and child outcomes; and
- (3) Establish a community-based system that is responsive to the health, education, and family support needs of Hawaii's families.

GBA has made substantial progress in addressing these outcomes. To reach the goal that "all of Hawaii's children will enter school safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school," GBA has established partnerships in the areas of school readiness, nutrition, and quality enhancement.

Additionally, GBA has organized its activities into the following five areas:

- Policy activities include developing child outcomes and indicators; acting as a resource for legislators; presenting partnership plans to the Interdepartmental Council; developing policy positions for the GBA Board of Directors; and identifying state, county, and community needs for service integration around common outcomes and indicators;
- Finance activities include the perpetuation of Alliance Office and activities and working with potential partners (philanthropy, Native Hawaiian Consortium, Legislature, businesses, and county and state agencies) to finance systems development at the state and county levels;
- Supporting Community Councils activities include grant writing (with an emphasis on evaluation and data), financial forecasting, presenting plans, Keiki Contacts, and providing technical assistance as needed;
- Public Awareness/Communication campaigns include GBA's website (www.goodbeginnings.org), Connections, newsletters, and activities such as Child Watch, Hoolaulima No Na Keiki, and the Speaker's Bureau; and
- Specific Activities include increasing the quality of informal child care, including health and safety packets and Keiki Contacts; facilitating parent leadership development and community mobilization; and supporting efforts to develop a framework and financing for early childhood practitioner training.

GBA is currently attempting to leverage resources through community partnerships to increase services for young children. Additionally, GBA is coordinating the Prenatal to Five Visioning Project to determine the highest priorities of needed services for the prenatal to five age group. The overall goal is to have a sustainable organization that is guided by well-defined child, program, and system-level outcomes that reflect public priorities.

PART IV: HAWAII'S INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN

According to Hawaii Kids Watch Children's Budget Analysis, Hawaii invested a total of \$1,800,000,000 in programs for children in 1997 out of a total of \$15,800,000,000 in spending for the same year (funds from federal, state, and county government programs and private funds from foundations, trusts, and grant-making agencies are included). This averages to \$5,946 for each child in Hawaii under age eighteen. Although only one person in four is a child, only \$1 out of \$8 is spent for children.

Of the \$1,800,000,000 in spending for children, only four percent, or \$72,000,000 is spent for early childhood education and care programs. Both the state and federal governments contribute \$30,240,000 (42%) each, private funds contribute \$10,800,000 (15%), and county funds contribute \$720,000 (1%) for this population.

Approximately \$68,400,000, or 94%, of the \$72,000,000 for early childhood education and care services go toward five major programs: twenty-two percent for the Dependent Care tax credit; twenty-two percent for DHS child care; nineteen percent for Head Start; eighteen percent for A-Plus Afterschool Care; and thirteen percent for Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate Preschools. The remaining five percent is spent on all other programs.

PART V: PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

A. Establishing the Committee

In 1998, H.C.R. No. 120, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, established your Committee that was composed of eleven members: six members from the House of Representatives, with at least one member each from the Committees on Human Services and Housing, Health, Education, Labor and Employment, and Finance, and one member from the minority party, all to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and five members from the Senate, with at least one member each from the Committees on: Human Resources, Health and the Environment, Education, and Ways and Means, and one member from the minority party, all to be appointed by the President of the Senate.

The members were Representative Dennis Arakaki and Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Co-Chairs, Representatives Ezra Kanofo, Alex Santiago, David Stegmaier, Nobu Yonamine, and Barbara Marumoto, and Senators David Ige (replacing Senator Brian Kanno), Marshall Ige, Andrew Levin, and Sam Slom.

Your Committee was charged with the following responsibilities:

- (1) Support GBA in the implementation of its duties as delineated in the Good Beginnings Early Childhood Education and Care Master Plan;
- (2) Recommend reallocation of public funds for early childhood education and care;
- (3) Encourage maintaining current levels of funding for early childhood programs and support services;
- (4) Encourage integrated and responsive policy and program plans that focus on the period before birth through the first five years of life in which all state agencies serving children and families shall consider;
- (5) Support the development of a data collection system to track outcomes and program effectiveness;
- (6) Support the State's interdepartmental efforts to implement Title XXI to assure health care coverage for all children in the State;
- (7) Encourage expanding incrementally the capacity of intensive home visitation services through Healthy Start, or other appropriate programs, to meet apparent needs;
- (8) Support the development of a comprehensive, community support system that will:
 - (A) Allow for local decision-making and embrace collaborative approaches to community engagement and oversight;
 - (B) Place a strong focus on achieving results; and
 - (C) Facilitate the creation of flexible financing systems and strategies that link funding to results;
- (9) Adopt a result-based accountability system using benchmarks and indicators to:
 - (A) Set goals to focus and coordinate efforts across agencies, between higher and lower levels of government, and between public and private groups at all levels of government;
 - (B) Track outcomes to provide for informed policy decisions impacting programs and resource allocation; and

- (C) Evaluate programs and policies to determine which programs and policies are effective, and to shed light on reasons for the successes or failures;

and

- (10) Develop a plan of action to implement its recommendations.

B. 1998 Legislative Interim

During the 1998 legislative interim, your Committee held a series of four public meetings for input and discussion at the State Capitol on November 6 and December 1, 17, and 30, 1998.

Information was provided by the Office of the Governor, DOE, the Department of Health (DOH), DHS, UH, the City and County of Honolulu, GBA, the Childcare Business Coalition, Children's Hope International/Asian Media, Family Support Centers, HAEYC, the Hawaii Head Start State Collaboration Project, Hawaii Kids Watch, INPEACE, Kahoolauloa Community Center, MothersCare for Tomorrow's Children, People Attentive to Children, Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii, Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center, Seagull Schools, and a number of individuals.

Presentations to your Committee included additional information on the importance of developmental, cognitive, and social growth in the early years, and the need to design an integrated comprehensive, family-centered delivery system to meet the needs of the whole child.

Your Committee received an overview of current programs in support of early childhood education and care, including the Office of the Governor's focus on children and families; DOE's Primary School Adjustment Project, special education for pre-schoolers, Families for REAL (Resources for Early Access to Learning), Sequenced Transition to Education in the Public Schools, Goals 2000 Grants, and Kindergartners are Most Precious; DOH's Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Project, the Children's Trust Fund, Child Death Review, and programs under DOH's Children and Youth Services Section, Maternal and Child Health Branch, the Psychosocial Support Services Section, the Preschool Development Screening Program, the Family Planning Services Section, the Perinatal Support Services Section, and the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council; as well as the current level of subsidies for child care to low-income families by DHS.

GBA reported on its activities and priorities for the future and Hawaii Head Start discussed its efforts in collaboration with the State. Presentations were made by Family Support Centers, the Childcare Business Coalition, MothersCare for Tomorrow's Children, and HAEYC.

C. Recommended 1999 Legislation

As a result of its meetings, your Committee recommended for the 1999 legislative session the Omnibus Early Childhood Education and Care bill (Omnibus Bill). The Omnibus Bill attempted to:

- (1) Establish a revolving loan fund that makes loans of up to \$25,000 to start or expand family child care homes or centers;
- (2) Expand the number of child care subsidies to increase the number of children in licensed child care programs;
- (3) Expand and continue the Accreditation-Mentor Project for Early Childhood program;
- (4) Support GBA as it supports the county and statewide efforts to coordinate programs and outcomes in the early childhood arena;
- (5) Expand the Families for REAL project beyond the three current schools;

- (6) Expand the Keiki Play Mornings program;
- (7) Continue to fund programs for pregnant and parenting teens; and
- (8) Provide funding for Childcare Development Associate Training credentials.

In support of the teen pregnancy and parenting programs, your Committee also recommended a concurrent resolution requesting the Board of Education to make parenting classes mandatory.

The Omnibus Bill, as written, did not pass the 1999 Legislature. The House version (H.B. No. 260) was amended to include only a provision to provide a means for early childhood screenings by the time a child reaches the age of three. However, this measure was vetoed by the Governor. The Senate version (S.B. No. 192) failed to pass third reading in the Senate.

While the Omnibus Bill was the only bill submitted on behalf of your Committee, there were many other pieces of legislation of particular interest to your Committee. These included issues such as child care in townhouses; breastfeeding in the workplace; appropriation of funds to provide early intervention screening services to identify infants and children with special needs and to identify children from birth to three years of age who may fall in the Felix class; and the use of the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund to fund, among other things, maternal and child health and child development programs.

D. 1999 Legislative Interim

During the 1999 legislative interim, a series of meetings for input and discussion were held at the State Capitol on May 27, July 7, September 8, October 6, November 3, and December 1, 1999.

During this time, your Committee discussed and heard presentations on service integration, GBA's focus on activities, updates on family care in townhouses, family-friendly policies in business, early childhood screenings, the Head Start State Collaboration Project, financing early childhood education and care, networking and education efforts, child outcome measures, professional preparation, intervention services for the three-to-five-year-old age group, DHS child care, the Children's Budget Analysis, and the Prenatal to Five Visioning Project.

Your Committee will recommend three bills, to be introduced in both the House and the Senate, incorporating these ideas for consideration during the 2000 legislative session.

PART VI: CONCLUSION

Your Committee was very successful in following through with its responsibilities as specified in H.C.R. No. 120, 1998. Through the process of its deliberations, drafting, and introducing the Omnibus Bill, your Committee publicly stated its priorities in the areas of supporting GBA, reallocating public funds for early childhood education and care, encouraging maintaining current levels of funding for early childhood programs and support services, and encouraging policies and programs that focus on the period from birth through age five.

During the 1999 interim, your Committee assessed and monitored the development of a coordinated system for early childhood services by listening to presentations from the early childhood education and care community. Your Committee found that the components of a quality system of care were in place, and that GBA was truly the link and focal point for policy development, disbursing of public funds, and implementation of early childhood community plans. Through GBA, the Legislature will be able to continue to monitor the development of a coordinated system that is dedicated to enhancing and developing early childhood education and care services.

Therefore, your Committee recommends that the Legislature:

- (1) Make GBA a permanent coordinating structure, as well as appropriate funds to implement GBA's initiative;
- (2) Support DHS' budget request, and give DHS the flexibility to meet early childhood education and care demands; and
- (3) Support OCS' budget request for Head Start programs.

Respectfully submitted,

MEMBERS ON THE PART OF THE
SENATE

MEMBERS ON THE PART OF THE
HOUSE

/s/ Suzanne Chun Oakland
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, Co-Chair

/s/ Dennis A. Arakaki
DENNIS A. ARAKAKI, Co-Chair

/s/ David Y. Ige
DAVID Y. IGE, Member

/s/ Ezra R. Kanoho
EZRA R. KANOHO, Member

/s/ Marshall K. Ige
MARSHALL K. IGE, Member

/s/ Alexander C. Santiago
ALEXANDER C. SANTIAGO, Member

/s/ Andrew Levin
ANDREW LEVIN, Member

/s/ David D. Stegmaier
DAVID D. STEGMAIER, Member

/s/ Sam Slom
SAM SLOM, Member

/s/ Noboru Yonamine
NOBORU YONAMINE, Member

/s/ Bertha F.K. Leong
BERTHA F.K. LEONG, Member