

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3767

Honolulu, Hawaii

JUL 02 2020

RE: H.B. No. 2543  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 2

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 2543, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to build the capacity to provide all children three to four years of age with access to learning.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Requires the Department of Education and Public Charter School Commission to assess kindergarten students at public schools and charter schools, respectively;
- (2) Requires the parents and guardians of public and charter school kindergarten students to disclose their students' prior early learning attendance;
- (3) Provides the Public Charter School Commission with administrative authority over certain early learning programs in public charter schools and establishes requirements for those programs;



- (4) Expands the Preschool Open Doors Program to provide grants for establishing new private preschools and expanding existing private preschools;
- (5) Appropriates funds and positions for the Preschool Open Doors Program;
- (6) Requires the Department of Human Services to collect and analyze data regarding the prior early learning attendance of kindergarten students;
- (7) Establishes the following early learning benchmarks:
  - (A) Fifty percent of certain three- and four-year-old children shall have access to enrollment in a preschool program by December 31, 2027; and
  - (B) One hundred percent of certain three- and four-year-old children shall have access to enrollment in a preschool program by December 31, 2032;
- (8) Establishes data sharing requirements;
- (9) Appropriates funds for Hawaiian language medium pre-kindergarten and Hawaiian language immersion classes; and
- (10) Authorizes the Hawaii State Public Library System to establish early learning classrooms at libraries.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Human Services, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, Bank of Hawaii, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Kamehameha Schools, Special Education Advisory Council, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education, Partners in Development Foundation, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, and one individual.

Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Executive Office on Early Learning, Department of Education, Early Learning Board, and Hawaii State Teachers Association.

Your Committee finds that providing all children with access to early learning before entering kindergarten will establish a



stronger educational foundation to help Hawaii's children improve their personal development, academic achievement, and career success.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Retaining the authorization for establishing, while deleting the appropriation of funding for, permanent full-time equivalent positions for the Preschool Open Doors Program;
- (2) Appropriating \$5,000,000 from federal funds deposited in the state treasury for the Department of Human Services to expand its information technology system for the purpose of managing the information collected pursuant to this measure;
- (3) Establishing the Hawaiian early learning trust fund, to be expended by the University of Hawaii of Hilo for the purposes of Hawaiian early learning, and appropriating moneys from the trust fund for classrooms for the Hawaiian language medium pre-kindergarten programs;
- (4) Exempting, until July 1, 2026, the laboratory school program of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawaii at Hilo from the standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements of the measure;
- (5) Appropriating \$3,000,000 of federal funds deposited in the state treasury for early learning classrooms and services on public library property;
- (6) Changing the effective date to upon approval, with the provisos that:
  - (A) The establishment of permanent full-time equivalent positions for the Preschool Open Doors Program shall take effect on July 1, 2020;
  - (B) The appropriation out of federal funds deposited in the state treasury for the Department of Human



Services to expand its information technology system shall take effect on July 1, 2020;

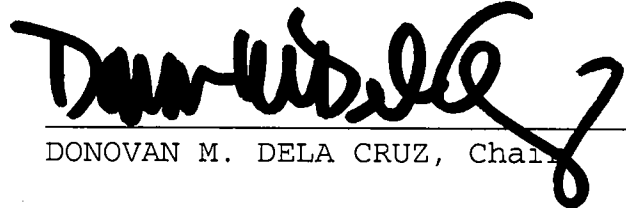
- (C) The appropriation out of the Hawaiian early learning trust fund shall take effect on July 1, 2020;
  - (D) The appropriation out of federal funds deposited in the state treasury for early learning classrooms and services at public libraries shall take effect on July 1, 2020;
  - (E) Provisions requiring the Board of Education and the Public Charter School Commission to adopt a standardized assessment for students entering kindergarten shall take effect on July 1, 2022;
  - (F) Provisions requiring the disclosure of prior early learning program attendance shall take effect on July 1, 2022;
  - (G) Provisions relating to the establishment or augmentation by the Department of Human Services of a database to collect and analyze early learning program information shall take effect on July 1, 2022;
  - (H) The amendments to section 27-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to departmental data sharing shall take effect on July 1, 2022; and
  - (I) Provisions relating to the establishment of benchmarks for preschool programs shall take effect on July 1, 2024; and
- (7) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2543, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that



it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B.  
No. 2543, H.D. 1, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Ways and Means,

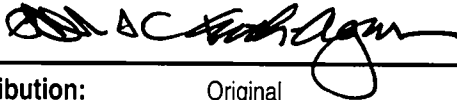


DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, Chair



The Senate  
Thirtieth Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**WAM**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 2543, HD 1, SD 1	EDU, WAM	6/30/20		
<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
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M. (C)	X			
KEITH-AGARAN, Gilbert S.C. (VC)	X			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	X			
HARIMOTO, Breene				X
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	X			
KAHELE, Kaiali'i	X			
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	X			
MORIWAKI, Sharon Y.	X			
RIVIERE, Gil	X			
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	12			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes