

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 11 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1872
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Education, to which
was referred H.B. No. 1872 entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish an Early Learning
Apprenticeship Grant Program to be administered by the University
of Hawaii to provide financial support for early learning program
service providers in the State to participate in state- or
federally-approved early learning apprenticeship programs.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Human Services; Board of Education;
Executive Office on Early Learning; Early Learning Board; Hawaii
State Commission on the Status of Women; Department of Community
Services, City and County of Honolulu; Department of Research and
Development, County of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Association of Independent
Schools; Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i; Commit to
Keiki; Early Childhood Action Strategy; Chamber of Commerce
Hawai'i; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; YMCA of
Honolulu; Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i; Family Promise of
Hawai'i; Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers; and numerous
individuals. Your Committees received comments on this measure
from the University of Hawai'i System.




Your Committees find that Hawaii faces a critical shortage of qualified early learning professionals, which limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities and strains working families who rely on stable childcare to sustain employment. Your Committees further find that registered apprenticeship programs offer a proven, workforce development pathway to recruit, train, and retain early learning educators, but many providers struggle to participate due to the financial burden of meeting wage and training requirements. This measure establishes a grant program to support early learning program service providers in covering apprenticeship related costs.

Your Committees have amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

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. 1872, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1872, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Labor.

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



JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair

ANDREW TAIUYA GARRETT, Chair

HSCR 130-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB1872	Committee Referral: HED/EDN, LAB, FIN	Date: 2-6-2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> 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. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (10)	10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				

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EDN Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. WOODSON, Justin H. (C)		/			
2. LA CHICA, Trish (VC)		/			
3. AMATO, Terez		/			
4. EVSLIN, Luke A.		/			
5. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya		/			
6. KAPELA, Jeanne		/			
7. KILA, Darius K.		/			
8. OLDS, Ikaika		/			
9. MURAOKA, Christopher L.		/			
10. SOUZA, Kanani		/			
TOTAL (10)		10			
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Trish La Chica</u>					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					