

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.

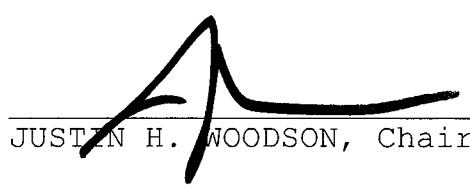


Your Committees find that Hawaii faces a critical shortage of qualified early learning professionals, which limits access to high-quality early learning opportunities and strains working families who rely on stable childcare to sustain employment. Your Committees further find that registered apprenticeship 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.

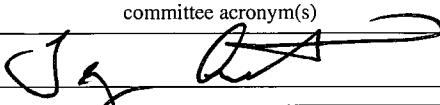
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Higher Education  
and Education,

  
JUSTIN H. WOODSON, Chair

  
ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education

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

Record of Votes of the Committee on Education

| Bill/Resolution No.:   | Committee Referral: | Date:                                     |      |                         |
|--|---------------------|---|------|-------------------------|
| HB1812   | HED/EDN, LAB, FIN   | 2/6/26                                    |      |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.  |                     |   |      |                         |
| <b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit) |                     |   |      |                         |
| 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  | /                   |   |      |                         |
| <b>TOTAL (10)</b>  | 10                  |   |      |                         |
| <b>The recommendation is:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted<br>If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.<br>committee acronym(s) _____   |                     |   |      |                         |
| Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Trish La Chica</u>  |                     |   |      |                         |
| <b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee  |                     | Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office |      | Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO |