



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MEDIA RELEASE
Date: October 15, 2013

MEDIA CONTACT: Cassandra Harris 586-7148
Erin Conner 587-7215

Hawai'i State Legislature to Receive Overview on Kindergarten Entry Age Transformation

Honolulu – The Senate and House committees on education will be holding a joint informational briefing to receive an overview of the ongoing efforts to support upcoming changes to Hawaii's kindergarten entry age.

The briefing will be held on **Wednesday, October 16, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in Senate Conference Room 414.**

"We are all working hard to make sure our families impacted by this age change have the information and support necessary to make the transition as smooth as possible," said Senator Jill Tokuda, chair of the Senate Committee on Education. "Ensuring that our late born children are taken care of, and having our public and private providers ready to step up to meet their needs will not happen overnight. This has been a multi-agency effort, and I applaud the willingness of all of our early learning stakeholders to be involved in the process."

The following individuals have been invited to participate:

- GG Weisenfeld, Director, Executive Office on Early Learning
- Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent, Department of Education
- Pankaj Bhanot, Division Administrator, Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
- Kim Guieb-Kang, Operations Specialist, Hawai'i P-3 Initiative
- Katherine Murphy, Executive Director, Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children

Kindergarten enrollment transformations will initiate in the 2014-15 school year. As required by [Act 178](#), Session Laws of 2012, a child must be five years old on or before July 31 of the school year to enter kindergarten. Previously, the State of Hawai'i allowed children to enter kindergarten if they turned five on or before December 31. This change in date aligns Hawai'i with the vast majority of states.

This informational briefing will be broadcasted by Capitol TV on 'Olelo channel 53 and live streamed at www.olelo.org.

For more information on the kindergarten entry age change, please see: www.earlylearning.hawaii.gov.

For more information on this briefing, please see:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2013/hearingnotices/HEARING_EDU-EDN_10-16-13_INFO_.HTM.

###