



The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

August 8, 2011

Dear Representative Hirono;

Thank you very much for co-sponsoring and introducing House Resolution (HR) 2794, The Continuum of Learning Act of 2011. We know that children need to be ready for schools and also schools need to be ready for children. The plan that has been put forward in this bill encompasses the different components that make that work well for the benefit of our keiki. Additionally, Hawaii has championed the P-3 Initiative for the past 5 years, and we see this resolution as directly supporting this vital work.

We note that in Hawaii, 41 percent of students entering kindergarten last year had no preschool experience according to the results of the 2010 Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment, and this number has declined for two straight years. This connection is critical to ensuring all children enter school safe, healthy, and ready to succeed. Thus, we strongly support the intent of HR 2794 to encourage elementary schools to better meet the needs of those children and also work with preschools to improve the transition for their students as they enter kindergarten. Mahalo for your continued strong support of Hawaii's and America's young children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elisabeth Chun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "n".

Elisabeth Chun  
Executive Director