

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

From: Liz Chun  
Executive Director, Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Monday, January 28, 2008  
1:15 p.m., Room 225

**Subject: SB2661, Relating to Early Childhood Education**

**The Good Beginnings Alliance does not support this bill to require the department of education to plan, design, and implement a pre-kindergarten academy for four year old children and an educational resource program for parents of newborn children.**

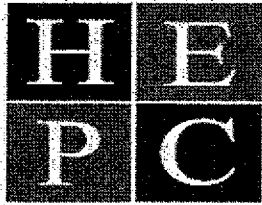
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB2661. I am Liz Chun, Executive Director of the Good Beginnings Alliance. I have been working in the field of early childhood education over 30 years. My Masters Degree is in Special Education and my years in the classroom were spent with preschool children who had special needs. I ran a business for over 13 years which specialized in educational training sessions for parents of young children and my husband and I raised three sons.

The programs proposed in this bill are very worthy of implementation. There are successful examples of such programs now operating in the community through both private and public funds. The P-3 initiative which has received funds from the W.K.Kellogg Foundation addresses the areas of young children's transitions into kindergarten as well as parent education.

We know that if a child can attend some early learning classroom experience before he enters kindergarten his ease of transition into the school setting will be greatly enhanced. We also know that babies are not born with a guide book and the more we can reach parents with information and resources – the more our young children and society will benefit.

That being said – I recommend strongly that the strategies brought forth in this bill be included within the work of the Early Learning Council and the early learning system as described in SB2878. It will be to the benefit of the children and the early childhood system if we begin to tackle strategies through a holistic approach of the early learning system.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**HAWAI'I EDUCATIONAL POLICY CENTER**  
*Informing the Education Community*

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
and  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing  
January 28, 2008, 1:15 p.m., Room 225

By

Valere McFarland, Associate Director  
Hawai'i Educational Policy Center  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**SB 2661: Relating to Early Childhood Education**

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Takuda, Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Educational Policy Center opposes SB 2661, which establishes an academy to prepare four year olds for kindergarten and a program to provide educational resources for parents of newborn children.

SB 2661 duplicates the services contained in SB 2878, which incorporates the recommendations of the Hawai'i Early Learning Task Force. Suggested in SB 2661 are planning and design studies, which would need to be conducted over many months at a huge financial cost. The Hawai'i Early Learning Task Force has already spent the past eighteen months conducting a rigorous study to develop a quality early learning system for Hawai'i's children. Their recommendations are contained in SB 2878 and include a five year plan that will prepare children for kindergarten and provide educational materials for parents of newborns. Thus we caution against this duplication of services and expense.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.