

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: SB2671, Relating to Education

The Good Beginnings Alliance does not support this bill to prohibit movement of junior kindergarten and kindergarten students between tiers and other requirements of the program.

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 recommend strongly that the strategies to address the learning needs of young children be included within the work of the Early Learning Council and the early learning system as described in SB2878.

The four year old program as described in SB2878 should be considered as the best practice strategy for addressing the early learning needs of Hawaii's four year old children. It will benefit young 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.

LATE TESTIMONY

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Human Services and Public Housing and Education, who have scheduled a public hearing on S.B. 2831, a bill relating to the U.H. Center on Aging Research and Education (CARE) on Monday, January 28, 2008 at 1:15p in Room 225.

Aloha kakou.

N.B. - I understand S.B. 2043 has been deleted from the agenda, so I am sending this in for S.B. 2831.

I am in support of S.B. 2831 because Hawai'i needs an "appropriate partner" to coordinate the research, education, and training needs of an aging network faced with growing numbers of older Adults who are living longer, with many needs. CARE's mission of assuring the well-being of our state's older adults is in jeopardy as its resources are not sufficient to the task of stimulating and coordinating gerontological and aging research, community services and training/instruction.

Our Area Agency on Aging, the Maui County Office on Aging, is in need of the type of services and program support that a fully functioning and resourced CARE can provide. Our own federal and state mandates will be met, more effectively and efficiently if we had a responsive partner, couched in programs that are both academic and community-engaged. I believe this bill will finally make CARE the "inclusive, information sharing, interdisciplinary", responsive and "appropriate partner" we desperately need. It goes without saying that CARE needs "faculty positions and program expenses". Please support S.B. 2831.

Me ka mahalo pono.

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