

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2009

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: S.B. 1329, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 (H.S.C.R. 1247), Relating to Early Learning

Purpose: Adds to the Early Learning Council (ELC) a representative from a Head Start provider agency or the representative's designee. Authorizes all ELC members to designate representatives for their role on the ELC. Requires, the ELC, in its development of the early learning system, to develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed. Renames the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund as the Early Learning Trust Fund. Requires that any general fund appropriations for Comprehensive Student Support Services (EDN 150) designated for the early learning system that are unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year, lapse into the Fund on June 30, 2009.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) is in support of S.B. 1329, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 (H.S.C.R. 1247). In view of the current fiscal situation this bill will allow the work of the Early Learning Council (Council) to continue, and ultimately ensure that the developmental and early learning needs of young children are equitably addressed throughout the state.

The Department sincerely thanks the Legislature and the Governor for the opportunity to continue working with its early childhood partners to ensure access to quality early learning opportunities, including the young learners in our two-tiered kindergarten program. In total, our collective efforts will help young children to be at optimal levels of readiness for learning, particularly as they make the transition into a K-12 learning system. At the same time, we respectfully ask that the Legislature continue to consider funding opportunities to enhance the early childhood programs for four-year olds.

As appropriate, the Department respectfully requests that this bill be expedited so that actions may ensure that unexpended and unencumbered funds are secured in the trust fund at the closing of the fiscal year in June 2009.

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1329, S.D. 2, H.D.1

April 1, 2009

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

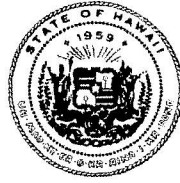
Senate Bill No. 1329, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, proposes that any FY 2009 general fund appropriations that are designated for the early learning system under Chapter 302L, that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of FY 2009, shall lapse into the Early Learning Trust Fund on June 30, 2009.

We oppose this bill because it will further reduce the amount of funds available for the State's general fund.

Although we support efforts to develop high-quality early learning opportunities, we note that the Department of Education has the authority to carry over up to 5% of any appropriation rather than lapsing unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2007 and Fiscal Year 2008, the Department of Education's general fund carryovers were over \$40 million each year. Normally, any unexpended amounts would have lapsed to the general fund.

In light of the current fiscal crisis, we cannot afford to reduce the State's general fund balance.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 1, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1329, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Hearing: Wednesday, April 1, 2009; 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1329, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, is to add to a representative from a Head Start provider agency or the representative's designee the Early Learning Council (ELC). Authorizes all ELC members to designate representatives for their role on the ELC. Requires the ELC, in its development of the early learning system, to develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed. Renames the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund as the Early Learning Trust Fund. Requires that any general fund appropriations for Comprehensive Student Support Services (EDN 150) designated for the early learning system that are unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year, lapse into the Fund on June 30, 2009.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: As a member of the Early Learning Council (ELC) created through Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Department of Human

Services supports the intent of Section 2 of this bill that authorizes all ELC members to designate representatives for their role on the ELC. This will insure that all member designations are well represented and that the council will have quorum at all scheduled meetings.

Also, we support the intent of Section 2 of this bill that proposes language for the junior kindergarten program to ensure that it is in alignment with the Early Learning System that the ELC will create.

We defer to the Department of Budget and Finance on sections 3 and 4 of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2009

1:00 p.m. – Conference Room 308

Re: SB1329 SD2 HD1: Relating to Early Learning

Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Finance. My name is Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of SB 1329 SD2 HD1.

Kamehameha Schools supports the efforts of the legislature to enhance the early education opportunities of children across the state through the Early Learning Council. In order for the Council to do its work, it needs resources and therefore Kamehameha Schools strongly supports efforts to prevent any lapse of funding that the Council needs to fulfill its charter.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve 5,400 K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and 1,485 three-and-four-year-olds at 31 preschool sites statewide. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other pre-schools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education (ECE) Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawai'i's pre-kindergarten children.

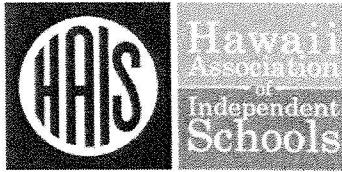
We look forward to continuing to work closely with the legislature, the Department of Education and other public and private stakeholders in the community for the benefit of the children of Hawai'i.

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Founded and Endowed by the Legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop

We also understand the economic burden that government and the private sector are under today and are actively working with and within the Early Learning Council to keep momentum going in its first year. It is extremely important, therefore, that funds allocated to the Council are not allowed to lapse, but rather be transferred to the Keiki First Trust Fund. Only in these modest ways can the determined early learning community move forward to serve more keiki and families with the Council's support. As a member of the Early Learning Council, Kamehameha Schools, stands committed to this work and we support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 1, 2009
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB 1329 SD2 HD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 97 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 30,000 students statewide.

The Association is in strong support of Senate Bill 1329, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 – Relating to Early Learning, which clarifies provisions of the State’s early learning system regarding the membership of the Early Learning Council, changes the name of the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund to the Early Learning Trust Fund, specifies that moneys in the fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year, and requires the Early Learning Council to develop a plan to address the needs of our state’s junior kindergarteners.

HAIS has long been an advocate for early childhood education and was a staunch supporter of the legislation which became Act 14 and authorized the creation of the Early Learning Council. We are pleased that such a body has been founded to address the educational needs of young children, as we believe that the work of the Council is essential to the development of a strong educational foundation for students of all ages.

Our association steadfastly believes that the return on investments in the education of the youngest members of our community is enormous. We are certain that an increase in the State’s overall investment in early learning will not only positively impact the future success of our keiki, but will also produce significant dividends for all of us in Hawaii, for many years to come. For this reason, we strongly urge the Committee to pass this measure, as it will provide the Council with the much-needed means to hire an executive director and continue the good work that it has already begun.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Hearing date:
Wednesday,
Friday, April 1,
2009, 1:00 p.m.
House Committee
on Finance,
Room 308

To: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Subject: **SB1329 SD2 HD1: Adds to the Early Learning Council (ELC) a representative from a Head Start provider agency or the representative's designee. Authorizes all ELC members to designate representatives for their role on the ELC. Requires the ELC, in its development of the early learning system, to develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed. Renames the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund as the Early Learning Trust Fund. Requires that any general fund appropriations for Comprehensive Student Support Services (EDN 150) designated for the early learning system that are unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year, lapse into the Fund on June 30, 2009.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop.

We strongly support this bill.

The changes in HD1 pertaining will ensure that the unencumbered funds of the Early Learning Council (ELC) will not lapse at the end of this fiscal year, adds a Head Start provider representative so that the ELC will meet the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care membership requirements of federal law, and allow the ELC to assess the Junior Kindergarten program. Passage of this bill will allow the Early Learning Council to carry on its work during the next fiscal year. Mahalo for your support.

For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502;
lchun@goodbeginnings.org

April 1, 2009, 1:00 pm
Conference Room, 308

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Re: SB 1329, SD2 HD1: Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee Members:

As Chair of the Early Learning Council, I am submitting testimony in support of this bill. The Council was created by Act 14 during the last legislative session to convene public and private agencies to create a comprehensive early learning system addressing the needs of children and families from birth to age 5. It became clear during the Council's meetings that additions and changes to certain provisions of the law would facilitate its work.

The Council supports the following:

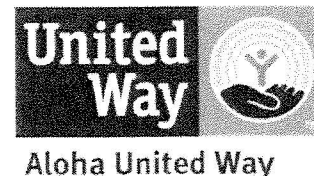
- The addition of a representative from a Head Start provider agency or the representative's designee;
- Authorization for all members of the Council to designate representatives for their role on the ELC;
- The development of a plan by the ELC to address the needs of junior kindergarteners;
- Renaming of the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund to the Early Learning Trust Fund;
- The requirement of any general fund appropriations for the Comprehensive Student Support Services (EDN 150) designated for the early learning system that are unexpended or unencumbered at the end of 2008-09 fiscal year, lapse into the Early Learning Trust Fund on June 30, 2009.

The enactment of this bill will allow the Council to support an Executive Director's position, be poised to become the state's State Advisory Committee (SAC) for Head Start to enable the State to apply for federal Head Start grant monies, ensure all voices of public/private representatives are heard at each meeting, bring a developmental and perspective and integrated solution to the junior kindergarten issue and eliminate potential confusion about the Early Learning trust and the granting program that will derive from it. Finally and critically, the State funding support through the transfer of unencumbered funds to the trust will allow Council members to hire a much-needed Executive Director for the Council and signal to the private sector the willingness of the State to work in partnership with the private sector to fund demonstrating the Council's work.

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Council as we all work to improve the quality of life for our keiki and future generations in our State.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, Chair, Early Learning Council

Aloha United Way
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938
Telephone (808) 536-1951
Fax (808) 543-2222
www.auw.org



March 30, 2009

House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

SB 1329, SD2 HD1 Relating to Early Learning: Written Testimony in Strong Support

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way strongly supports SB1329, SD2 HD1 which adds to the Early Learning Council (ELC) a representative from a Head Start provider agency or the representative's designee; authorizes all ELC members to designate representatives for their role on the ELC; requires the ELC, in its development of the early learning system, to develop a plan to ensure that the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed; renames the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund as the Early Learning Trust Fund; and requires that any general fund appropriations for Comprehensive Student Support Services (EDN 150) designated for the early learning system that are unexpended or unencumbered at the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year, lapse into the Fund on June 30, 2009.

Aloha United Way supports the efforts of the Early Learning Council and recognizes the importance of its continuing work in the area of early childhood learning. When children do not succeed in school, they require additional services, are over represented in the juvenile justice system, and fail to achieve the skills necessary to live self-sufficient lives as adults. Aloha United Way considers early childhood learning so essential that it has become one of the organization's key funding areas.

Because SB1329, SD2 HD1 will allow essential work in early childhood learning to continue during the upcoming fiscal year, Aloha United Way encourages favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Doyle".

Susan Doyle
President & Chief Professional Officer