

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

March 20, 2009

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Senate Bill No. 1329, S.D. 2, proposes that any unexpended moneys in the Early Learning Trust Fund under Chapter 302L shall not lapse to the general fund but shall remain in the Early Learning Trust Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

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

March 20, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

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

Hearing: Friday, March 20, 2009; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1329, S.D. 2 is to authorize the Governor and the Hawaii Council of Mayors to name designees for their representatives on the early learning council; changes the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning council trust fund; and specifies that moneys in the trust fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

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 as it provides adequate flexibility to the Governor and the Hawaii Council of Mayors to name designees for their positions.

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

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

March 20, 2009, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Re: SB 1329 S.D. 2: Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Berg and Members of the Committee:

As the Chair of the Early Learning Council, I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Council which appreciates selected changes to the law (Act 14) already made by the bill and would like to recommend two additional ones, both of which will enhance the Council's work.

The Council is in agreement with the amended subsection of Act 14, Section 2 pertaining to council member designees (items 5 – 8). It would recommend that item 9 be changed to read that the representatives of the Hawaii Council of Mayors may also assign designees in their absence rather than the Mayors making the appointments of the designees as the amendment currently reads. This change will remove the burden from the Mayors and allow the representative to select the person most qualified and informed to attend the Council meetings in their stead.

The Council is in agreement with Section 3 which renames the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund to the Early Learning Council. This change places the emphasis upon the broader scope of the Council's work and eliminates potential confusion with the Keiki First grants program.

The Council would also recommend a language change in Section 3 relative to funds being placed into the Early Learning Trust at year's end. We are urging the language to read as follows: Any fiscal year 2008-09 general fund appropriations that are designated for the early learning system under chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of fiscal year 2008-09 shall lapse into the Early Learning Trust Fund on June 30, 2009. This change in language would permit the Council to continue with its plans to hire an Executive Director, pay for minimal operational expenses of the Council and continue to have Neighbor Island Council members meet on Oahu for the Council meetings. Currently all of the work is being carried on by volunteers and this is insufficient to truly move the early learning agenda forward. The availability of this general funding will also allow us to demonstrate to private providers that even in uncertain economic times with no new funding possible the state has supported the Council's work.

We would also recommend a change in the Council's membership which would expand it by one member. As referenced at our briefing last week, the Head Start Reauthorization Act passed in 2007 requires the governor of each state to designate or appoint a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. The current membership of the Early Learning Council meets all the requirements of the State Advisory Council with

the exception of a representative of a Head Start provider agency. The inclusion of such a representative would facilitate the Council's efforts to have the Governor name it as the State Advisory Council, opening up funding avenues not currently available. The Council believes it would not be advisable to Hawai'i to have both a State Advisory Council and a separate Early Learning Council if a comprehensive 0 – 5 early learning system is to be developed.

Passage of this bill with the recommended changes will allow the Early Learning Council to continue its work during this next fiscal year. Thank you for the opportunity to share the Early Learning Council's views on SB 1329.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Council



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

Hearing Date: Friday, March 20, 2009

2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 309

Re: SB1329 SD2 Relating to Early Learning

Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and members of the House Committee on Education. 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.

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.

567 South King Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3036 • Phone 808-523-6200

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.

Shelley Ng, Vice President of Public Policy for
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony addressed to House Committee on Education
For hearing on Friday, March 20, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.
SB1329 SD2 Relating to Early Learning

'Ano'ai kakou! Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Berg, and esteemed members of the House
Committee on Education.

As the vice president of public policy for the Hawaii Association for the Education of
Young Children (Hawaii AEYC), I represent 1,000 members who are early childhood
development and educational professionals across the state. My name is Shelley Ng.

I support SB1329 SD2 in its current form which authorizes the Governor and the Hawaii
Council of Mayors to name designees for their representatives on the early learning
council, changes the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust
fund and specifies that moneys in the trust fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal
year.

The staff and board of Hawaii AEYC are most willing to assist the legislature in providing
information or strategies that can better inform the decision-making over this proposed
amendment. I invite you to contact us at (808) 942-4708.

Hawaii AEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism
in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0 – 8) and their families.

Best wishes during this legislative session.

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Lyla Berg, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Friday, March 20, 2009, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Subject: **SB1329 SD2: Authorizes the Governor and the Hawaii Council of Mayors to name designees for their representatives on the early learning council; changes the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust fund and specifies that moneys in the trust fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.**

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 with two recommended amendments.

Good Beginnings Alliance has been actively supporting the new Early Learning Council through its different subcommittees. We recognize the importance of continuing this work despite the current state budget challenges. We also support the ability of the Hawaii Council of Mayors to name alternate designees for their representatives so that the work of the Early Learning Council can continue in the absence of the representatives. Thus, we recommend that references to the lapsing of moneys in the early learning trust fund be changed as follows:

- From: "Specifying that **moneys in the early learning trust fund** shall not lapse to the credit of the general fund at the end of each fiscal year"
- To: "Any **general fund appropriations** designated for the State's early learning system under chapter 302L that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of the fiscal period specified in the appropriating Act shall lapse into the fund."

We also recommend that a representative of a Head Start agency be appointed to the Early Learning Council. In 2007, Congress approved the Head Start Reauthorization Act requiring the governor of each state to designate or appoint a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. The law states that "the Governor shall take steps to ensure that its membership includes, to the extent possible, representatives consistent with subparagraph (C)." The current membership of Hawaii's Early Learning Council meets all of the membership requirements of the State Advisory Council with the exception of a representative of a Head Start agency. Thus expanding the Early Learning Council's membership to include a Head Start representative will help this Council to be designated as the State Advisory Council by the Governor. We also note that the Head Start Reauthorization Act includes a provision for one-

time startup grants to states to support plans developed by their State Advisory Councils, and each grant will be at least \$500,000. According to the national early childhood organizations, Pre-K Now and Voices for America's Children, there appears to be funds in the Head Start appropriation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support some startup grants, and the recommendation is for states to position ourselves to apply once the request for proposals (RFPs) is announced. No one yet knows the timing for the RFPs.

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



March 20, 2009

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 1329 SD2 – Relating to Early Learning

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, 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 – 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, and specifies that moneys in the fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

In addition, we would like to voice our support of the recommended amendments described in the testimony submitted by Dr. Robert Peters – head of one of our member schools, Hanahau'oli School, and chair of the Early Learning Council – on behalf of the Council, as follows:

- A language change in Section 3 regarding the placement of funds into the Early Learning Trust at the fiscal year's end, to read: "Any fiscal year 2008-09 general fund appropriations that are designated for the early learning system under chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of fiscal year 2008-09 shall lapse into the Early Learning Trust Fund on June 30, 2009."
- A language change in Section 2, Item 9, to allow the Hawaii Council of Mayors *and their representatives* to assign designees in their absence.
- A change in the Council's membership, as outlined in Section 2, expanding it by one member to include a representative of a Head Start provider agency.

HAIS has long been an advocate for educational programming and services for young children and is in great support of both the Early Learning Council and its work to develop a comprehensive early childhood education system for Hawaii. We strongly urge the Committee to pass this measure with the changes recommended above, as it will provide the Council with the much-needed means and ability to continue the good work that it has already begun.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



INPEACE (Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture)
1001 Kamokila Blvd., #226, Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 693-7222
www.inpeace-hawaii.org

TESTIMONY

SB1329 SD2

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Testimony Presented Before

The Committee on Education

March 20, 2009 @ 2:00pm in Conference Room 309

by

Kanoe Nāone, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer

“Authorizes the Governor and the Hawaii Council of Mayors to name designees for their representatives on the early learning council; changes the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust fund and specifies that moneys in the trust fund shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.”

INPEACE **SUPPORTS** the overall intent of this bill and urges the committees to pass it.

INPEACE annually serves more than 2,400 children, parents and community members through its early childhood and workforce development programs on 5 different islands. With more than fourteen years experience providing high-quality, culturally-relevant and developmentally appropriate services to young children, INPEACE understands the critical role the early years (ages 0-8 years) play in the overall development of children. Research continually advocates for adequate, *quality* child-rearing supports in place for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to ensure successful future outcomes for them. These supports are currently disparate, underfunded, and in need of a strong and comprehensive governance structure in the state of Hawai`i. The creation of the Early Learning Council has been a step toward developing a stable governance structure, but a sustainable funding stream has yet to be created.

The Early Learning Trust Fund will be a central source of funds specifically geared toward and aimed at developing, enhancing and sustaining quality early childhood education programs and services. This main funding stream will allow early childhood services, from prenatal care to preschool programs, to better align their resources and personnel, cutting back on overlapping and misallocated funds. The Early Learning Trust Fund is crucial to maintaining an early learning *system* that can have the capacity to develop, monitor, evaluate and improve the highest quality programs possible for Hawai`i's keiki and future generation.

We recommend one amendment to this bill from:

“Specifying that **moneys in the early learning trust fund** shall not lapse to the credit of the general fund at the end of each fiscal year”

To:

"Any **general fund appropriations** designated for the State's early learning system under chapter 302L that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of the fiscal period specified in the appropriating act shall lapse into the fund."

In these tough economic times it is critical that we use every dollar we have already worked for and put it to good use on behalf of young children and their families. By allowing the funds to be utilized after June we can lay a strong foundation for an early learning system in our state so that when funds are more available for direct services we will already have a system in place to utilize those funds. Mahalo for your consideration.