

HB 395

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 395, H.D. 1, S.D. 1

April 2, 2009

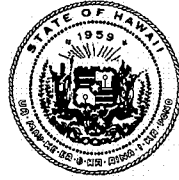
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

House Bill No. 395, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, proposes that any monies designated for the State's early learning system under Chapter 302L that are unexpended by the end of each fiscal year shall remain in the Early Learning Trust Fund.

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.



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

April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 395, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Hearing: Thursday, April 2, 2009; 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

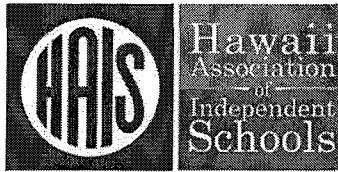
PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 395, H.D.1, S.D. 1 is to require that beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the Department of Education shall use successful assessment tools and protocols for determining a student's initial placement and for decision making about a student's movement between junior kindergarten, kindergarten, and into grade one; clarifies provisions of the early learning system, including authorizing designees for all members of the early learning council, changing the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust fund, and 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.

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 3 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.

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

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



April 2, 2009
9:30 am.
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: HB 395 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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 House Bill 395, House Draft 1, Senate 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.

In addition, we would like to voice our support of the recommended amendments described in the testimony submitted by Elisabeth Chun, executive director of the Good Beginnings Alliance, as follows:

- A language change in Section 4 regarding the placement of funds into the Early Learning Trust at the fiscal year’s end, replacing the final line with: “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.”
- A change in the Council’s membership, as outlined in Section 3, expanding it by one member to formally 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 to hire an executive director and continue the good work that it has already begun.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009

9:30 a.m. – Conference Room 211

HB395 HD1 SD1: Relating to Early Learning

Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. My name is Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **strongly supports the intent** of this measure, **HB395 HD1 SD1**, and requests that the measure be amended by deleting the following language in Section 4 of the measure: “Unexpended moneys in the fund shall not lapse to the credit of the general fund and shall remain in the early learning trust fund at the end of each fiscal year.”

And replace the deleted language with the following: “Any fiscal year 2008-2009 general fund appropriations for comprehensive student support services (EDN 150) 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 2008-2009 shall lapse into the Early Learning Trust Fund on June 30, 2009.”

This amended language will effectuate the intent of preserving the unexpended funds and insure that the funds are transferred into the Early Learning Trust Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this very important legislation.



Hearing date:
**Thursday, April
2, 2009, 9:30 a.m.**
Senate Committee
on Ways and
Means
Room 211

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: **HB395 HD1 SD1: Requires the department of education, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, to use successful assessment tools and protocols for determining a student's initial placement and for decision making about a student's movement between junior kindergarten, kindergarten, and into grade one; clarifies provisions of the early learning system, including authorizing designees for all members of the early learning council, changing the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust fund, and 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. (SD1**

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 the intent of this bill regarding the lapsing of moneys and recommend the following amendment:

- 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. The release date for the RFPs is still to be determined.

We understand this bill's intent regarding the junior kindergarten program. We believe that the Junior Kindergarten Program should be reviewed by the Early Learning Council and perhaps incorporated into the early learning system being developed by the council as these students are still 4 years of age at the start of the DOE school year.

Passage of this bill will allow the Early Learning Council to carry on its work during the next fiscal year. Mahalo for your support.

April 2, 2009, 9:30 am
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Re: HB395 HD1 SD1

Dear Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony about HB395 HD1 SD1. As chair of the Early Learning Council, I am presenting testimony that supports the intent of this bill with one recommended change and one recommended addition.

First, we suggest eliminating the language "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" and replacing it with the following: Any fiscal year 2008-09 general fund appropriations for comprehensive student support services (EDN 150) that is 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.

Second we urge the addition of a Head Start agency as a member of the Early Learning Council to pave the way for the Early Learning Council to meet all the intended requirements of Congress' Head Start Reauthorization Act which provides for the creation of a State Advisory Council (SAC). This expansion of the Council would allow the Governor to name the ELC as Hawaii's State Advisory Council which would position our State to apply for startup grants when the time is right.

While we understand the intent of the JK portion of the bill, we recommend referring the issue to the Council for incorporation within the early learning system it is charged to develop.

Thank you for considering our recommendations regarding this bill and for our joint effort to support the well-being and quality of life of our keiki and their families.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Council



Hearing date:
Thursday, April 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Room 211

To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Monday, March 23, 2009, 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Subject: **HB395 HD1 SD2: Requires the department of education, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, to use successful assessment tools and protocols for determining a student's initial placement and for decision making about a student's movement between junior kindergarten, kindergarten, and into grade one; clarifies provisions of the early learning system, including authorizing designees for all members of the early learning council, changing the name of the keiki first steps trust fund to the early learning trust fund, and 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. (SD1**

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 the intent of this bill regarding the lapsing of moneys and recommend the following amendment:

- 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. The release date for the RFPs is still to be determined.

We also understand this bill's intent regarding the junior kindergarten program. We believe that the Junior Kindergarten Program should be reviewed by the Early Learning Council and perhaps incorporated into the early learning system being developed by the council as these students are still 4 years of age at the start of the DOE school year.

Passage of this bill will allow the Early Learning Council to carry on its work during the next fiscal year. Mahalo for your support.