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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2011 12:31 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** threestars@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB289 on 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for WAM 2/25/2011 9:00:00 AM SB289

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Linda Elento  
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Submitted on: 2/25/2011

**Comments:**

I do not support a fee schedule for families to attend Families for REAL as this will add administrative costs and decrease access to all families. It is my understanding that the previous administration considered such a program as this should be under the DHS, which licenses preschools and has federal funding for low income/eligible families. The licensing requirements became an issue for programs such as Head Start to operate at the public school campuses.

Given this is a parent training program that includes their babies and tots learning too with long-term family and community impact, I ask the legislature to support funding Families for REAL in the budget so that this program will continue and expand, as intended in past legislative appropriations, without a fee schedule for participation. No other successful program exists that I know of that does not require a fee-based schedule or require a particular nationality or religious or income-level requirement for eligibility.

Thank you for considering this testimony, a parent of three children who attended the FFR program over the past 15+ years and have provided testimony in support of FFR to the Board of Education and over the previous five legislative sessions.