

SB926

Measure
Title:

RELATING TO CHILDREN.

Report
Title:

Keiki Caucus; Early Childhood; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for various early childhood and school readiness programs. (\$)

Companion:

Package:

Keiki

Current
Referral:

HMS/HTH, WAM

Introducer(s):

CHUN OAKLAND, SHIMABUKURO, Dela Cruz,
Fukunaga, Ige, Ihara, Kidani, Ryan

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN,
INTERIM DIRECTOR
PANKAJ BHANOT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 10, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

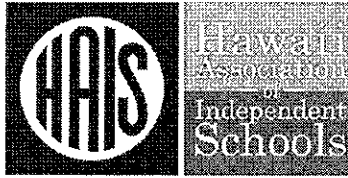
SUBJECT: **S.B. 926 - RELATING TO CHILDREN**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2011; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 926 is to appropriate funds for various early childhood and school readiness programs.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill but defer on the fiscal implications until Governor Abercrombie's Executive Biennium Budget is finalized.

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



February 10, 2011
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 16

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH

RE: SB 926 – Relating to Children

Dear Chairs Oakland and Green, Vice Chairs Ihara and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, which represents approximately 100 member schools and educates over 30,000 elementary and secondary school students statewide.

We support Senate Bill 926, which appropriates funds for programs in the State that address early childhood development and school readiness. SB 926 is in line with the mission of the Early Learning Council to ensure quality learning opportunities for our young children from birth through kindergarten. This bill will aid in establishing programs that will positively impact the children of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Senate Committee on Human Services
Senate committee on Health
Testimony by
Early Learning Council
February 10, 2011
S.B. 926 – Relating to Children

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, and Committee Members:

The Early Learning Council (“ELC”) offers this testimony in support S.B. 926.

Established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state’s early learning system. The ELC seeks to establish a cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable early learning system that ensures a spectrum of quality early learning opportunities for young children from their prenatal period until the time they enter kindergarten. As such, the ELC focuses upon four essential areas: Early Education and Care; Health; Parent Education and Family Support; and Workforce and Professional Development.

S.B. 926, which funds programs designed to address school readiness and early childhood development, relates directly to the ELC’s focus areas of Early Education and Care; Health; and Parent Education and Family Support, and represents a significant step in establishing a comprehensive array of services that will foster a bright future for Hawai‘i’s children. The Early Learning Council strongly supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Council

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Kauai United Way



Aloha United Way

Testimony on SB 926, RELATING TO CHILDREN

Joint Senate Committees on Health and Human Services

Health Chair: Sen. Josh Green

Health Vice-Chair: Sen. Clarence Nishihara

Human Services Chair: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland

Human Services Vice-Chair: Sen. Les Ihara

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Testimony submitted by: Howard S. Garval,
President & CEO, Child & Family Service

Good morning, Chairs Green and Chun Oakland and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Ihara and Committee members. I am Howard S. Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive human service nonprofit organization with services on every island and touching the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from keiki to kupuna each year. I am testifying in support of SB 926.

All of the research on brain and child development now substantiates through science what we always knew to be true: An investment in early childhood is critical to ensuring that our keiki grow on a positive trajectory towards health, safety and ultimate success as adults. Furthermore there is now solid and reliable data that every \$1 invested in early childhood returns \$4.20 in economic benefit.

Unfortunately in the last two years, the state has moved further away from what makes any sense because a number of severe cuts were made to early childhood programs such as: Healthy Start, Baby Safe, Preschool Open Doors, and Early Intervention Services. While many states have responded in this fiscal crisis by cutting prevention programs, this is the opposite of what all of the research indicates is the way to go. Hawaii sadly has gone from a national leader in early childhood services to decimating the very programs that other states have praised Hawaii for creating. It is time to reverse this pennywise and pound foolish approach by restoring, even if gradually, early childhood services that ensure that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn when they start school.

SB 926 supports Healthy Start, Developmental Screening for children-3 and pre-school, Preschool Open Doors, Early Intervention Services and Baby Safe. It also helps to fund the Early Learning Council (ELC) at a funding level of \$250,000 so that the ELC has operational funding to develop an early childhood system of care.

Let's begin to build back early childhood services and programs that restore Hawaii to its rightful place as a national leader in early childhood. Our keiki deserve no less than quality early childhood services that ensure that they are safe, healthy and ready to learn.

I urge your support of SB 926.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children



Hearing date:
Thursday,
February 10,
1:15 p.m.
Senate
Committees on
Human Services
and Health
Room 016

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Thursday, February 10, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Subject: **SB 926: Appropriates funds for various early childhood and school readiness programs.**

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. Good Beginnings is also a member of One Voice for Hawaii's Children (www.onevoiceforchildren.net), an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the development of an effective and equitably funded early childhood system that gives all young children the opportunity to arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed.

We wish to provide you with information that may be helpful in your decision-making process. Addressing the needs of our at-risk young children and families in the early years is foundational to our early learning system. The programs named in this bill are part of the safety net for our keiki and foundational to school readiness when they start kindergarten.

We are starting to see the results of the significant cuts to our state's comprehensive early childhood system in the Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services over the last two years--including the Healthy Start Program. Public school kindergarten students who attended preschool have decreased two straight years. Additionally, less than 1 out of 4 kindergarten classes had most of their students consistently displaying the necessary pre-literacy and pre-math skills required at the beginning of this current school year. Our weakened economy has placed increased stress on families.

Mahalo for your consideration. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; ljchun@goodbeginnings.org

February 7, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, Senate Human Services Committee

Senator Josh Greene, Chair, Senate Human Health Services

Re: SB 926,

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Greene:

I am Gail Breakey, Executive Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute at the Myron B. Thomson School of Social Work testifying in support of this bill. The mission of the Institute is to promote best practice in prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. This bill primarily addresses issues related to early childhood which often become barriers to child well being, school readiness and success and future productivity as citizens.

Particularly, it is critical to prevent and remediate maternal addiction issues both before and alcohol abuse, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, child abuse and neglect as well as to identify and intervene early with a wide range of developmental problems and delays as well as to ensure that disadvantaged children receive safe childcare and opportunities for early cognitive development in preparation for school. This bill speaks to the need for an early childhood system of services with the overarching goal that young children are able to develop in healthy and normal ways and to enter school safe, healthy and ready to learn.

Neuro-science research on early brain development over the past three decades provides important insights into early child development and the critical importance of this developmental period to all future development. Infants are born with trillions of neurons waiting to be wired into a brain. This wiring occurs in the context of interactions with parents and experiences in the first few years. Positive experiences provide a strong foundation for a healthy, positive growth trajectory extending through the school years and into adulthood. Negative experience create weak foundations and a bent growth trajectory, often resulting in a number of psycho-social difficulties which require costly remediation including mental health services, special education, substance abuse and juvenile support services, involvement with the criminal justice system as well as lost productivity and future tax revenues.

Economics now make the connections between investing in early childhood and creation of human capital needed for a strong community and economy. Our economy cannot right now make the investments needed for the early childhood system needed. However, restoration of services which have recently been significantly reduced or eliminated will be an important step in this direction.

Thanks you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Gail Breakey, Executive Director

Hawaii Family Support Institute