

**LATE**

Hawaii State Senate  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Testimony by  
Early Learning Council Chair  
March 27, 2012  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

GM 782 Early Learning Council Gubernatorial Nominee CHRISTINA COX

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Ihara, Jr., and Committee Members:

As Co-Chair of the Early Learning Council, I recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Christina Cox as a member of the Early Learning Council.

As President of KCAA Preschools of Hawai'i for the past 11 years, she has overseen the operation of 7 nationally accredited preschools on O'ahu and has been actively involved in leading the vision for quality early child development and learning for every child in this State. She understands the needs of our early learning community as her preschools service over 900 children, 50% of whom are below the State Median Income level and 85% of whom attend public school when they leave KCAA.

Christina has served effectively on the Early Learning Council as the alternate to Chuck Larson, the current Center-Based program Provider representative. On the Council she contributed greatly to our efforts to advance an Early Learning System Framework, adopted by the Governor and his Early Childhood Coordinator. She has also been very active in discussions on professional development and the defining of quality early learning standards for all early learning providers.

She is consistently a strong and present voice for our keiki and I highly support her nomination to the Early Learning Council.

Sincerely,

Dee Jay Mailer, Co-Chair  
Early Learning Council

**LATE**



Tuesday, March 27, 2012

1:15 PM

Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

RE: GM 782 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINA COX, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS supports GM 782** and Christina Cox's appointment to the Early Learning Council (ELC). I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Cox at the policy level for over twenty years. HAIS has long been an advocate for educational programming and services for young children, particularly through our active involvement with the ELC. This involvement has given me the opportunity to work collaboratively with Ms. Cox

HAIS looks forward to continued and thoughtful discussion on how best to achieve high quality early learning programs that are available, affordable, and accessible for all children, birth to kindergarten entry, and address children's diverse abilities and needs.

I strongly believe that Christina Cox's continued involvement in early learning initiatives via the Early Learning Council will be to the benefit of young children in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 782.