

Date: 02/27/2012

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2519,HD1 (hscr309-12) RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education. Effective July 1, 2012. ((HB2519 HD1))

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2519, HD1 (hscr309-12). The Early Learning Council (Council) provides guidance and direction to the development of Hawaii's comprehensive early childhood system. The Council plays an important role in identifying and promoting statewide efforts to improve the readiness of young children in Hawaii.

The Department expresses its support and continuing belief that quality early education is important. The Department looks forward to working collaboratively along side the Council, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services and the Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator to further develop and implement a system where all children in Hawaii begin school in a safe, culturally appropriate, educationally sound, and healthy condition.



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

February 27, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2519, H.D.1 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Hearing: Monday, February 27, 2012; 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2519, H.D.1 is to appropriate funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill to appropriate funding to further the work of the Early Learning Council and the Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator to develop and implement a plan for four-year olds to access a preschool program. The DHS has consistently been involved in efforts that promote early learning for young children and believes that funding appropriated by the legislature to initiate universal Pre-Kindergarten is a step in the right direction to improve outcomes for all children in our State.

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



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: HB 2519, HD 1-- RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

MONDAY; FEBRUARY 27, 2012

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HB 2519, HD 1, which appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Education to support early childhood education initiatives, including the development and implementation of a comprehensive early childhood education framework.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that access to successful early learning programs correlates with formal classroom success, as well as lower remediation and criminal justice costs. In collaboration with the Governor and executive administration, we want to highlight that, as of 2011, 42 percent of Hawaii's public school keiki did not attend any form of preschool prior to enrollment in formal education, despite the approximately 420 percent return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services. As the State of Hawaii continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are prepared to receive instruction and enjoy an effective classroom experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



February 27, 2012
3:00 p.m.; Agenda #5
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2519 HD1 – RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING.

Dear Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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 elementary and secondary students statewide.

The Association **strongly supports House Bill 2519 HD1** which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education through the Early Learning Council and the Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator.

HAIS has long been an advocate for educational programming and services for young children, particularly through our active involvement with the Early Learning Council (ELC). The ELC seeks to develop a comprehensive early childhood education system for the state and HAIS stands ready to support the important mission of this group.

The Early Learning Council requires operational funding to continue coordinating, improving, and expanding early learning programs and services. The development and adoption of a financial business plan and the identification of a sustainable funding stream is a vital component to ensure the sustainability of this group and the funding provided in this bill is a critical first step.

The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools appreciates the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2519 HD1.

House Committee on Finance
Testimony by
Early Learning Council
February 27, 2012
3:00 p.m.
Capitol Room 308
HB 2519, HD 1 – Related to Early Learning

Chair Oshiro, Vice-Chair Lee and Committee Members:

The Early Learning Council (“ELC”) offers this testimony in support of HB 2519, HD 1 related to early learning that appropriates \$500,000 for the funding of the Early Learning Council and the Governor’s Early Childhood Coordinator.

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.

Since its inception, the ELC has completed and received approval for a statewide early childhood system framework, has partnered and provided advice on the development of a State Quality Improvement and Rating System, has supported the drafting of professional competence requirements for early learning practitioners, and most recently completed a Fiscal Mapping study (funded by the Omidyar Foundation) to measure the resources currently available in the State for Early Childhood services (e.g. education, health, nutritional and social services, special education services and family and professional training and development. Finally, the ELC has supported the “Be My Voice” campaign, which is targeted to impact the next biennium.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively and proactively with the legislature and the broader community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Council



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Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

Date: February 27, 2012

Subject: HB 2519, HD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

HB 2519, HD1, appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education. HAEYC supports this measure.

HAEYC would like to continue to be a positive contributor to ongoing policy conversations about Hawaii's children. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at 942-4708 or haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org.

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

HAEYC'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.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC