



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair**

**Feb. 3, 2012  
2:00 p.m. Room 209  
Testimony in SUPPORT on HB 2519  
Relating to Education**

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Au Bellatti and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 2519, Relating to Education (Ed).

HB 2519 supports one of Governor Abercrombie's more important priorities, early childhood education. Research has found that over 85 percent of a child's brain development, in response to the stimulation the child receives, happens by age five. With our youngest children, it is about establishing healthy attitudes towards learning and positive social behavior so children can be ready to succeed in kindergarten and in life.

In 2011, the Department of Education reported that state-wide about 42 per cent of Hawaii's public school kindergarten students did not attend preschool. Many of Hawaii's DOE elementary school principals and child advocates say kindergarteners without preschool experience are more likely to enter school far behind their peers.

Research has also shown that investing in high quality early childhood education programs produces significant returns later. In Hawaii, every \$1 spent in high quality early childhood education realizes a \$4.20 reduction in costs for future educational and social interventions.

The Administration's supplemental budget contains a request for \$500,000 for the early learning council and the governor's early childhood coordinator to further develop and implement our State's framework for a comprehensive early childhood system with the goal that all of Hawaii's children, prenatal to age five, will be valued, safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school. The pillars of this



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framework are, early education and care; health; parent education and family support; and workforce and professional development. This funding will also develop, execute, and monitor a phased implementation plan for a public-private preschool program for four-year olds, with identified potential sources of sustainable revenue.

We want to inform the committee that the Senate Education Committee hearing passed SB 2545 which will serve as the Senate vehicle for the Administration's early childhood education initiative. The Governor's office has participated in the development of the Senate bill and will work with the House to ensure that the Governor's initiative is passed by end of this Legislative session.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2519.

**Date:** 02/03/2012

**Committee:** House Education  
House Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2519 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2519. 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 3, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
  
The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Friday, February 3, 2012; 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 2519 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 Senate  
House Committees on Education and  
Human Services  
**Testimony by**  
**Early Learning Council**  
February 3, 2012  
2:00 p.m.  
Capitol Room 309  
HB 2519 – Related to Early Learning

Chairs Takumi and Mizuno, Vice Chairs Belatti and Jordan and Committee Members:

The Early Learning Council (“ELC”) offers this testimony in support of HB 2519, related to early learning.

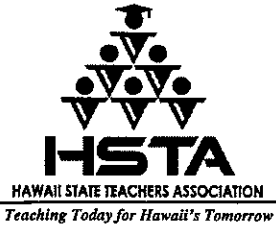
Established under Act 14, First Special Session 2008, the Early Learning Council is entrusted with the development and administration of the state’s early learning system. The ELC seeks to establish a cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable early learning system that ensures a spectrum of quality early 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 launched the “Be My Voice” campaign, which is targeted to impact the next biennium.

The ELC is chartered by the legislature and thus governed by the State’s Sunshine Laws. Thus, it was not able to meet to discuss the specifics of this bill before testimony was needed. The Council, however, does support funding for early learning and supports advancing this bill. 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



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

**Wii Okabe**  
President

**Karolyn Mossman**  
Vice President

**Joan Kamila Lewis**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Alvin Nagasako**  
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**RE: HB 2519 – RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING.**

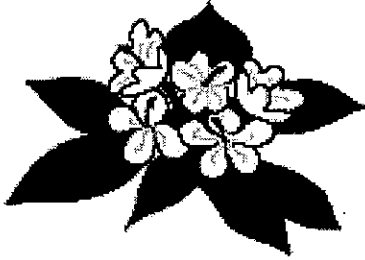
**Friday, February 3, 2012**

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**Chairs Takumi, Mizuno and Members of the Committees:**

**The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports HB 2519 which appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support early childhood education for fiscal year 2012-2013, to provide funding to continue to develop and implement Hawaii's school readiness agenda.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify**



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

February 3, 2012

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*  
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice  
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta  
Ms. Cassandra Bennett  
Ms. Jyo Bridgewater  
Ms. Sue Brown  
Ms. Pamela Buchanan  
Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison  
to the Superintendent*  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Ms. Phyllis DeKok  
Ms. Debra Farmer  
Ms. Gabriele Finn  
Mr. Henry Hashimoto  
Ms. Tami Ho  
Ms. Barbara Ioli  
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa  
Ms. Bernadette Lane  
Ms. Pina Lemusu  
Ms. Shanelle Lum  
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu  
Ms. Dale Matsuura  
Dr. Jeff Okamoto  
Ms. Stacey Oshio  
Ms. Barbara Pretty  
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes  
Ms. Melissa Rosen  
Dr. Patricia Sheehy  
Ms. Cari White

Jan Tateishi, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education  
Presentative John Mizuno, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2519 - RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING

Dear Chairs Takumi and Mizuno and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** HB 2519 which appropriates monies to the Department of Education to support quality early childhood learning.

SEAC understands that this funding is needed for the planning and development activities of the new Office on Early Learning. We believe that an early priority of this Office will be to develop high quality educational alternatives for the gap group of four-year-olds who will be displaced by the repeal of Junior Kindergarten.

SEAC has long held that all children, with and without disabilities, benefit from quality, early learning programs that address their unique needs and help prepare these keiki for academic success. As part of our responsibility to advise the Department of Education on the needs of students with disabilities aged 3-5, we have focused on inclusive placement options, timely transitions from early intervention, positive behavioral and academic outcomes and evidence-based instruction.

SEAC offers our assistance in disseminating information to families and advising the new Office on policies and procedures needed to support excellent early learning outcomes that benefit all students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII  
1177 Alakea Street • B-100 • Honolulu • HI • 96813  
TEL: (808) 586-5363 • TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 • FAX: (808) 586-5366

February 2, 2012

Representatives Takumi & Bellati,  
Chair House Committee on Education State Capitol

RE: HB2519 – RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING

Dear Chairs Takumi & Bellati and Members of the Committee,

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii **strongly supports** HB2519 which proposes to appropriate funds out of the general revenues to the Department of Education to develop a public-private preschool program for four-year olds to support early childhood education.

The CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

The CCCs have long held that all children, with and without disabilities, benefit from quality, early learning programs that address their unique needs and help prepare them for long-term academic success. Three projects in particular have excellent follow up data: one in Michigan, called *Perry* or *High/Scope* (Schweinhart & Weikart, 1997; Schweinhart et al., 2005); one in North Carolina, called *Abecedarian* (F.A. Campbell et al., 2001); and one in Chicago, called *Child-Parent Centers* (A.J. Reynolds, 2000); A.J. Reynolds et al., 2004). All the evaluations of these three programs reached the same conclusions, which is now accepted by developmentalists: Good early education has many long-term benefits. Children in these programs scored higher on math and reading achievements tests by age 10 from the same backgrounds, schools, and neighborhoods. They were also significantly less likely to be placed in special classes for slow or disruptive children or to repeat a year of school. (Berger, 2010)

The CCCs maintain that this is will be one option for the gap group of four-year-olds who will be displaced by the repeal of Junior Kindergarten. The CCCs promote *high quality* early education that leads to lasting cognitive and social benefits for all children.

We respectfully request your support of HB2519.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) at 586-5363. Thank you for considering our testimony,

Tom Smith, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)





Hearing date:  
**Friday, February**  
**3, 2012; 2:00**  
**pm.**  
**House Education**  
**Committee**  
**Room 309**

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Friday, February 3, 2012, 2:00 pm  
Conference Room 309

Subject: **House Bill 2519 Education; Early Childhood**

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. The following information is provided to help you in your decision-making process:

- Hawaii is currently **one of only 10 states which does not support an early learning program** for children prior to kindergarten entry.
- Many states have achieved great successes in developing a comprehensive quality early childhood system after they established an **executive office on early learning**. We believe creating this office in Hawaii will be critical to ensuring all of our keiki are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed.
- Other states have also established an **early learning advisory board/council** that advises the executive office of early learning. This early learning office provides the authority and accountability to convene the different stakeholders of an early childhood system and bring a state early childhood plan to fruition. The council provides the opportunity for community and stakeholder input into the work of the office.
- **It is crucial to provide the new Early Childhood Coordinator with the necessary resources in order to achieve the outcomes expected of this office.** The major outcome in the coming year is the office's a mandate to further develop and implement the components of our State's comprehensive early childhood system and monitor a phased implementation plan for four-year olds.

Mahalo for your consideration and your support. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; [lchun@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:lchun@goodbeginnings.org)

February 2, 2012

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair  
Rep. Jo Jordan, Vice Chair

**HB 2519, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Date of Hearing

Friday, February 03, 2012, 2:00PM  
State Capital, Conference Room 309  
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of **Daiquiri Miyasato**

Chair Roy Takumi, Vice-Chair Belatti, Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair, Jo Jordan and other committee members, thank you for this opportunity to submit a testimony in SUPPORT of bill HB 2519, Relating to Early Learning.

As a strong advocate for early learning, a single parent of three school-age children, graduate student of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and social worker, I truly and passionately support programs that guide young children to support their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

As research shows the economic, social and learning benefits of early childhood educated children, quality early childhood education programs should be supported to give each child their fullest potential in being our leaders for tomorrow.

Raising three children on my own was less difficult with the support of programs such as Keiki Steps (a free program that focuses on parent-child interactive learning experiences from birth through age five) which had increased the well-being of my children and guided them to enter preschool by age three. Early childhood educators have also taught me essential steps to positive parenting. Early childhood educational programs teach children, as well as parents who play the most vital role in their children's life, which in turn benefits the family system and community as a whole.

My children's experience in preschool has given them the tools they needed to advance academically in school and has instilled the confidence to lead successful lives and become productive citizens.

Supporting bill HB 2519, will give appropriate funds to further develop and implement early childhood programs that is crucial to our children's future. I strongly support bill HB 2519.

Thank you,

Daiquiri Miyasato  
[daiquirimiyasato@yahoo.com](mailto:daiquirimiyasato@yahoo.com)  
(808)990-6018