



**STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

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To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair, and Vice Chair Marilyn Lee
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Monday, April 2, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

From: James P. Hardway, Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

Re: SB 2545 SD2 HD1 Relating to Education

The Workforce Development Council ("WDC") **supports** Senate Bill 2545 SD2 HD1, relating to the establishment of the Executive Office on Early Learning.

The WDC is an attached agency to the DLIR and is responsible for advising the Governor and Legislature on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities for all. The WDC is also the State Workforce Investment Board for purposes of the federal Workforce Investment Act ("WIA") of 1998. The WDC assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year strategic workforce investment plans and oversees workforce (public) investment activities in the state.

The WDC knows that education at all levels is critical to the development of a strong, vibrant workforce for the State of Hawaii. Both the public and private sector reconfirm that the development of our workforce must begin at the early education level. Developing an executive-level focus on early education, the state will see tangible benefits later in the child's life in the form of becoming a highly educated, highly skilled member of the workforce.

With the establishment of the Executive office on Early Learning, the WDC is encouraged to see the state focus on this critical point in education. The WDC knows that putting this type of investment into early childhood education will provide real benefits for the state in years and decades to come in the form of a highly educated, highly motivated workforce that Hawaii needs for the 21st century.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2545 SD2 HD1.

Governor's Appropriation for Early Learning

Funding will be for: 1) staffing for Executive Office on Early Learning; 2) establish EOEL and support to the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) working groups; 3) development and completion of state early childhood strategic plan; 4) development and completion of the implementation plan with financials for public-private preschool program for targeted four year olds; 5) statewide Governor's Conference on Early Learning; 6) development of program standards, curriculum and assessment for public-private preschool program for targeted four year olds.

Budget Breakdown

Project manager, project specialist, administrative assistant (3 FTE plus benefits) for Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL)	270,000
Establish EOEL and support Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) working groups	40,000
Development and completion of the state early childhood strategic plan. Development and completion of implementation plan for targeted four year olds	75,000
A statewide Governor's Conference on Early Learning to launch early childhood plans	55,000
Development and training on program standards, curriculum and assessment for implementation plan for public- private early learning program for targeted four year olds	60,000
Total	500,000

LOE

Aloha. My name is Brandy Caceres and I am the director of the Pūnana Leo in Waiʻanae. I am also the proud parent of three Pūnana Leo graduates. The Pūnana Leo is the only statewide provider of early education through the Hawaiian language. Please pass SB2545 with 'Aha Pūnana Leo amendments. These are important to allow the full participation of our Pūnana Leo preschools throughout the State and with attention to the unique status of the Hawaiian language.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Brandy Caceres

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 12:28 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kekamaboy@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2545 on 4/2/2012 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/2/2012 3:00:00 PM SB2545

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pili'ana Starkey
Organization: Individual
E-mail: kekamaboy@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

I am a current Hawaiian medium educator on the Island of Molokai. My keiki are currently attending Kaiapuni schools on this island and my third child also attends Punana Leo o Molokai. The Pūnana Leo is the only statewide provider of early education through the Hawaiian language. Please pass SB2545 with 'Aha Pūnana Leo amendments. These are important to allow the full participation of our Pūnana Leo preschools throughout the state and with attention to the unique status of the Hawaiian language.

Mahalo,
Pili'ana Starkey. Kumu & Makua

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 12:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: henoheal@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2545 on 4/2/2012 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/2/2012 3:00:00 PM SB2545

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Henohea Linker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: henoheal@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/2/2012

Comments:

I am a makua, parent, from Molokai with a keiki, child, in Pūnana Leo in Molokai. The Pūnana Leo is the only statewide provider of early education through the Hawaiian language. Please pass SB2545 with 'Aha Pūnana Leo amendments. These are important to allow the full participation of our Pūnana Leo preschools throughout the state and with attention to the unique status of the Hawaiian language.

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Karen Ginoza, Education Task Force, Co-chair
Josepha Munez, Parent, United Friends and Parents for Education
Juliet Won, Parent, United Friends and Parents for Education
Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE)

Date: April 2, 2012, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Subject: **SB 2545, SD2, HD1 (HSCR1221-12)**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2545 that establishes the executive office on early learning. We support SB 2545 because it establishes the early learning advisory board. The board needs to have an early learning plan in place before junior kindergarten program is repealed in 2013-14. Children need to be in early learning programs so that they will be prepared to enter kindergarten. Our parents would like to share their concerns with you.

Josepha works in an elementary school has talked with parents about the termination of the junior kindergarten program. Parents have asked, "What is going to happen to our kids? What if we have to work?"

Juliet Won also works in an elementary school. She has observed her daughter in class and feels that if the students had early learning experiences they could make better academic progress.
