

SB2800

Measure Title: RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD CARE LICENSING.

Report Title: Child Care Licensing; Exemptions

Description: Adds exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or any federal agency from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services.

Companion: HB2538

Package: Gov

Current Referral: HMS/EDU

Introducer(s): TSUTSUI (BR)

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR
BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 21, 2012

MEMORANDUM

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

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

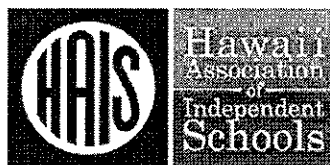
SUBJECT: **S.B. 2800 - RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD CARE
LICENSING**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 21, 2012; 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2800 is to add exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or any federal agency from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill. Kindergartens, schools, or child care programs to be exempted are already licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or federal agencies which administer them. There is no reason for the department to also license these already-licensed kindergartens, schools and child care programs.

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



February 21, 2012 - 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2800 – RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD CARE LICENSING.

Chairs Chun Oakland and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Ihara and Kidani, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Robert Witt, 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 is in strong support of this Administration measure. SB 2800 adds exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS), or any federal agency from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The private school community, including schools whose programs are licensed by DHS, has the capacity to self-govern; the evidence for this is the successful self-regulating system we have had in place at HAIS and HCPS since 1996 when the Legislature de-regulated private schools from Department of Education supervision and asked HAIS to set up a self-governing system that replicated or improved upon the long-standing DOE private school licensing program. Since that time, HCPS, an affiliate of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, has reliably licensed about 100 private schools.

The licensing provided by DHS to our private school community has three dimensions: 1) early education programs for children under five (5) years of age; 2) summer fun programs that are not educational summer school programs; and 3) before and after school programs. Of the three, the early education programs are most prominent, and the primary focus of the existing licensing program is

the health and safety and well-being of young children. Should HAIS and HCPS become responsible for licensing of these programs, the existing elementary and secondary licensing program would require some modification to reflect the rigorous standards expected of schools with responsibility for young children.

Our position is that our association has the capacity for this given some assessment and examination of needs. Our member schools would be obliged to reimburse our association for the additional costs involved. Given these realities, we are here today to share our belief that this measure is aligned with the best interests and values of independent schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support SB 2800.



1806 So. King Street | Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | (808)942-4708 | FAX (808)955-2739 | haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Subject: SB 2800, Relating to Exemptions from Child Care Licensing

SB 2800 would add exemptions for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, or any federal agency from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services. HAEYC respectfully opposes this measure in its current form to the extent that it includes children birth through age 5 who receive child care subsidies. The Department of Human Services Child Care licensing process ensures basic health and safety for our youngest keiki.

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

Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's young children (0-8) and their families.