



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Testimony by

Dee Jay Mailer, CEO of Kamehameha Schools & Vice Chair of the Early Learning Council
February 25, 2011
SB 289, SD1 – Relating to Education

Chair Ige and Committee Members:

I am a member of the Early Learning Council (“ELC”) and I offer this testimony in support of SB 289, SD1.

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.

SB 289, SD1, which funds the Families for R.E.A.L. program, which is a school-based teacher training and child development program of courses and activities for parents, relates directly to the ELC’s focus areas of Early Education and Care, and Parent Education and Family Support. Such a program and the professional and curriculum development for the department of education and the early learning council represents a significant step in establishing a comprehensive array of services that will foster a bright future for Hawaii’s children. The Early Learning Council strongly supports this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Council