

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:39 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: ZETHZWiiFEY@YAHOO.COM  
Subject: Testimony for SB289 on 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM SB289

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Chasity Biddinger  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [ZETHZWiiFEY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ZETHZWiiFEY@YAHOO.COM)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Comments:

WE love love love this program...its a really good program it helped myself and my children in soo many ways. i think its perfect for all the parents and children that cant afford preschool and i hope they can continue to help others THANK YOU

## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:42 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mkaanoi@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB289 on 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM SB289

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Momi Kaanoi  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [mkaanoi@yahoo.com](mailto:mkaanoi@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:43 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** npalafox@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB289 on 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM SB289

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Neal Palafox  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [npalafox@gmail.com](mailto:npalafox@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

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## FINTestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:46 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** lpalafox@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB289 on 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM SB289

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lawakua Palafox  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lpalafox@hotmail.com](mailto:lpalafox@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

WE love love love this program...its a really good program it helped myself and my children in soo many ways. i think its perfect for all the parents and children that cant afford preschool and i hope they can continue to help others THANK YOU

## FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:45 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: gkaanoi@hotmail.com  
Subject: Testimony for SB289 on 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/6/2011 2:00:00 PM SB289

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Genevieve Kaanoi  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [gkaanoi@hotmail.com](mailto:gkaanoi@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2011

Comments:

WE love love love this program...its a really good program it helped myself and my children in soo many ways. i think its perfect for all the parents and children that cant afford preschool and i hope they can continue to help others THANK YOU

April 6, 2011

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro  
State House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 439  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

Re: SB 289

Dear Chair Oshiro and Vice-Chair Lee:

My name is Laura McHugh and I am the site coordinator for the Leeward Families for Resources and Early Access to Learning (R.E.A.L.). I am here to ask for your support of SB 289. Families for REAL (FFR) has been operating since 1988 and its mission is to support parents in their role as their child's first teacher. Although the majority of our participants are typical parents, there are no restrictions to attend and FFR also serves families who are referrals from agencies such as 0-3 (DOH Early Intervention Section), Easter Seals, Family Court, and CPS. The Leeward FFR site serves approximately 300 families every school year with at least that many more people on a waitlist.

FFR is a very important parent-child service that provides practical and useful information necessary to build healthy families. Our goal is to get parents to be more involved in their child's education by giving them the tools they need such as information on child development, and share ideas for activities and other ways they can help their child in the critical early years of development.

FFR is a vital program that provides school-based curriculum for parents and their children birth to 5 years of age. The Board of Education (BOE) believes that FFR does not "directly service" the children of Hawaii; therefore, it plans to cut funding for this very important curriculum-based program. This decision jeopardizes the opportunities that will provide for the healthy development of Hawaii's children as well as school readiness and for that reason, we are asking for your support and continue funding FFR.

Sincerely,

Laura McHugh  
Leeward Families for R.E.A.L. Site Coordinator, Parent Educator

## LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Legislators and members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Lyn Kinoshita and I am the Early Childhood Teacher at the Leeward Families for R.E.A.L. program.

I would like to read a letter from Chris Chang who could not make it here today. She is the Site Coordinator for the Benjamin Parker Families for R.E.A.L. program in Kaneohe and would like to share some information about their site.

Families for R.E.A.L. provides learning experiences for families and their children, from birth-5 years, with the goal of promoting education and making each child's first experience in the classroom a positive one. Families for R.E.A.L. program is the link between families with young children and the school. By bringing parents onto school campuses and providing a structured environment w/in a classroom, it provides them with the opportunity to become involved in their child's education at the earliest age possible. We have seen a direct correlation between parents who have attended our program and the level of their involvement once their children enter school.

Here are some data from Windward's FFR last school year:

\*They had approximately 270 families and their children attended the program.

\*There was a diverse range of families that they serviced. For example,  
11 % were grandparents,  
13%-fathers,  
13%-members of the military,  
23% had an income under \$38,000,  
22% of the children were receiving other services and  
33% of the children were part Hawaiian.  
At the end of last school year, they had approximately  
360 families on their wait list.

As educators, we really believe that emphasis should be placed on Early Childhood Education, the formative years, yet this program lost its DOE funding last year. I believe we need to invest our time and money to ensure that ALL young children have the opportunity to learn and succeed.

By being proactive we can provide parents with information and resources about child development and school readiness. We also provide their children with experiences that will enhance their development and learning.

If we can offer this to families, more children will enter kindergarten developmentally and socially ready to learn. This will lead to long-term school and life success.

The only way for Families for R.E.A.L to continue serving parents and their children, as we have done



for the past 23 years, is for the legislature to pass SB289.

We humbly ask you to consider our request, keeping in mind the future of our children and the future of Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Chang

WFFR: site coordinator

Lyn Kinoshita LFFR: Early Childhood Teacher

7/6/11