



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
H.B. 14 H.D. 1, Relating to Early Childhood Education
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

House Committee on Finance
February 21, 2014
1:00 p.m., Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. I am GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of House Bill 14, House Draft 1.

The purpose of this bill is to make kindergarten mandatory for a child who will be at least five years of age on or before July 31 of the school year. The bill further requires the Department of Education, in collaboration with EOEL, to develop a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness system and establish an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system.

EOEL supports the provision to make kindergarten mandatory.

Across the nation, most school districts require that a child be five years old before entering kindergarten or become five in the first month of school. In 2012, 39 states and the District of Columbia had cutoff dates of September (usually the first day of school) or earlier.

As we work to implement an early learning system in Hawaii, it makes sense to have mandatory kindergarten to promote the continuity of children's experiences from prekindergarten to kindergarten. While most children enroll in kindergarten, some families do not feel compelled to send their children to school on a consistent basis because it is not mandatory. Without the skills that can be gained through a kindergarten experience, these children may have to play catch up with their peers in first grade. This may leave the child feeling discouraged and put them in a position to fall further behind.

With the adoption of the Common Core State Standards for kindergarten to grade 12, it is even more important now that kindergarten be made mandatory so Hawaii's children can meet the academic requirements of K-12.

EOEL also supports the requirement of this bill that EOEL cooperate with the Department of Education to develop a kindergarten readiness assessment system. As EOEL develops a prekindergarten program for four-year-olds, it is important that the School Readiness and Early Childhood Education programs align with the DOE kindergarten program. A kindergarten readiness assessment system is an important part of achieving this alignment.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/21/2014

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0014,HD1(hscr373-14) RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Makes attendance at kindergarten mandatory. Makes transition to kindergarten a directive for the early learning system.

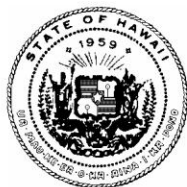
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports mandatory kindergarten for children who will be five years of age by July 31 of the school year.

The Department, in collaboration with the Executive Office on Early Learning, is committed to developing a comprehensive kindergarten program of instruction, providing professional development for kindergarten teachers, and implementing an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system. We appreciate the support that this bill provides by including an appropriation to assist with the effective implementation of this measure as the Department would not have the means to do so under our budget appropriation.

The Department is committed to a kindergarten system that balances quality learning experiences with developmentally appropriate practices in classrooms to support every child's journey towards a college- and career-ready future in Hawaii.

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, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 14, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2014; 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purposes of H.B. 14, H.D. 1 are to amend the compulsory education law to make kindergarten mandatory; develop a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness tool; establish an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment process; and appropriates funds.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and defers to the Department of Education and the Executive Office on Early Learning on the implementation of its provisions.

Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established the existing child care assistance program, called Preschool Open Doors, as the statewide school readiness program to be administered by the Department of Human Services.

The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program serves low- to moderate-income families whose late-born children are affected by the change in kindergarten entry age

in the 2014-2015 school year or whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.

Requiring that kindergarten attendance be mandatory under the compulsory education law would require children enrolled in the POD program to attend kindergarten in the following year and will promote continuity of the children's early learning experiences and thus maximizing the value of the POD program. Children will have the needed school-readiness skills they experienced in a preschool setting through the POD program and will be ready to apply those skills in kindergarten.

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



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON FINANCE

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014

RE: H.B. 14, HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) wholeheartedly **strongly supports H.B. 14, HD1, Mandatory Kindergarten.**

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter schoolteachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA believes that kindergarten should be mandatory as well as adequate funding should be provided by the state so that kindergarten education will be available to all five year olds.

In President Obama's state of the union address, he referred to the proliferation of pre-kindergarten programs. As such, kindergarten may no longer be the primary bridge between home and formal education. However, it still serves as an important transitional function as kindergarteners are expected to learn basic academic and social skills that prepare them for the demands of first and subsequent grades. In order to ensure that this expectation is met, kindergarten attendance should be mandatory, and Hawaii should offer a publicly –funded, quality kindergarten program.

HSTA supports full day mandatory Kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of H.B. 14, HD1.**



Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Finance
February 21, 2014 at 1:00 pm
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

HB 14, HD 1: Relating to Early Childhood Education.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:
HB 14, HD 1 makes attendance at kindergarten mandatory, develops a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness tool, establishes an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment process, and appropriates funds for the process.

Hawaii P-20 supports this bill. As an organization that works in partnership with the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Hawaii Department of Education and the University of Hawaii, Hawaii P-20 works to improve the educational pipeline and facilitates seamless educational experiences across systems. Full-day kindergarten is essential to create the educational, socio-emotional and physical building blocks to success in latter years in the K-12 education system and beyond.

In particular, Hawaii P-20 strongly supports the creation of an appropriate individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system. Currently, schools create or adopt their own assessments in order to survey incoming students' readiness for school. Many of these tools are not developmentally appropriate, cumbersome to administer, and expensive. Moreover, they do not provide any uniform data to the Hawaii Department of Education about children's readiness or consistent feedback to early learning programs about their preparation of children or feedback to parents and families about their child's learning and development. It is absolutely essential that the state begin to collect data about individual child readiness for kindergarten in order to improve the preparedness of children, aid teachers in providing differentiated learning techniques, and for longitudinal studies about education outcomes.

Furthermore, we strongly support the request for the funding of an appropriate kindergarten assessment tool, as well as the ongoing training necessary on the chosen tool. The Hawaii Department of Education cannot be expected to implement a new statewide assessment system without adequate funding. The proposed amount of \$870,000 for the first year of implementation and training is appropriate; on-going annual costs should amount to approximately \$405,000 for the four personnel and annual subscription costs for a kindergarten assessment tool. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hawai'i P-20

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Office: 808-956-3879 | Fax: 808-956-8037

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Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2014 at 1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 14, HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 14, HD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber believes that this measure must be in place to properly equip Hawaii's youth with important life skills. The Chamber strongly believes that children need to attend kindergarten or risk following behind their peers. While non-attendance is not a large segment of the population, it is important that many children attend kindergarten. Also as it is voluntary, sometimes children who are not ready to advance to the next level are allowed to move forward.

On a broader level, early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it's imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This is not only about return of investment but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

finance8-Danyl

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: susan.rocco@doh.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB14 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM

HB14

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Rocco	Special Education Advisory Council	Comments Only	No

Comments: All children, with and without disabilities, benefit from quality, early learning programs that address their unique needs and help prepare them for academic success. HB 14 will help to expand quality programs by requiring research-based and developmentally appropriate practices that align with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards. We hope this expansion of programs will result in more options for students with disabilities to be educated alongside their non-disabled peers.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m
Conference Room 308
by

Donald B. Young
Personal Testimony

HB 14 HD 1 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee on Finance

My name is Donald Young. I am the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

On behalf of the College of Education, I support HB 14 HD 1. While we continue to struggle with how to provide quality early learning opportunities for all young children, it remains an anomaly that we do not require Kindergarten attendance. It is true that in Hawai'i a very large number of families voluntarily enroll their children in Kindergarten. However, leaving early learning to chance is unacceptable if we truly intend to create a literate, productive workforce and ensure all children have access to life opportunities they may wish to achieve.

HB 14 HD 1 calls for the early learning system to facilitate the transition to kindergarten of children in the program. I wish to respectfully remind the Committee that the College of Education has considerable faculty expertise in developing early learning systems, including assessment protocols and instruments appropriate for young children, that could contribute to fulfilling the intent of this part of the bill.

I wish to also point out that several years ago the Hawaii Educational Policy Center (HEPC) engaged in a statewide effort focused on the transition of young children into Kindergarten. In addition to the research conducted, there were two instruments developed, one assessing the readiness of groups of children to enter Kindergarten, and another assessing the readiness of schools to accept and provide quality educational services for them. I respectfully suggest that should HB 14 HD 1 pass that we re-look and build upon the earlier HEPC work rather than assuming that we are starting from scratch. The reports can be found on the HEPC website.

- [Ready for Success In Kindergarten — A Comparative Analysis of Community Beliefs: Preschool and Kindergarten Parents, Teachers, and Administrators \[POLICY BRIEF ALSO AVAILABLE\]](#), (114 pp, 608K, PDF)
- [Development, Validation and Field Testing of Readiness Instruments: Schools Ready for Children and Children Ready for School](#)(83 pp, 764K, PDF)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

finance8-Danyl

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:03 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jfarnsworth@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB14 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM

HB14

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JoAnn Farnsworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I testify in strong support to amend the compulsory education law to make kindergarten mandatory. Critical to learning success would be the development of a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness tool and an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment process.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 19, 2014
Hearing on Friday, February 21, 2014 at 1 p.m.
House Finance Committee
House Conference Room 308
In support of HB14, HD1

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Phyllis Ida and I am a retired DOE Special Educator, and the former 619 Coordinator for the Windward District. I also over see the grant administration for the Windward District P-3 Demonstration Project that focuses on keiki reading on grade level by third grade, providing model program of seamless early learning experiences from early childhood programs through elementary school for young children in the Windward District.

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of HB14 HD1 relating to early childhood education, as it amends the compulsory education law to make kindergarten mandatory; develops a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness tool; and establishes an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment process.

The Windward P- 3 Grant & its Demonstration Project appreciates and acknowledges the need for this particular measure in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children.

There is a need for this particular measure in order for the state to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children.

The Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment (HSSRA) for the 2012 -2013 School Year estimates that approximately 43% of Hawaii's keiki entered kindergarten without preschool experience.

If a child does not arrive at kindergarten ready to learn because of his/her lack of or access to quality early learning opportunities, he/she will most likely struggle to keep up.

A lack of school readiness directly undermines reading proficiency, the leading indicator of long-term academic and life success. This could lead to the child losing interest and a motivation to learn. With each subsequent year of education, the child's achievement gap only widens.

It is safe to say that if a child does not have preschool experience and does not attend kindergarten because it is not mandatory, there is a possibility that the child's achievement gap will begin to look like and feel like a canyon.

One of the first steps in closing the achievement gap is by making kindergarten attendance mandatory.

I also support the bill requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to work collaboratively with the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) to create a statewide kindergarten readiness program as this will aide in the closing of the achievement gap.

The EOEL is staffed by individuals who have experience in addressing the needs of the whole child ~ that is education, health, safety and welfare. They are also skilled in working with a variety of partners, both private and public, to address the needs of the whole child and his/her family.

Having the DOE work with the EOEL is a collaboration that will put Hawaii's keiki on a road to a successful life.

It is time for us to seriously invest in Hawaii's future by investing in its keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB14 HD1.

February 19, 2014
Hearing on Friday, February 21, 2014, 1 p.m.
House Committee on Finance
Conference Room 308
In support of HB14 HD1

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Celia Chang Takahashi and I am an Early Childhood Professional asking you to support HB14 HD1 relating to early childhood education, as it amends the compulsory education law to make kindergarten mandatory; develops a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness tool; and establishes an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment process.

As an early childhood professional I understand & am in support of the measures outlined in this bill. As Hawaii makes strides to create & implement an early learning system, it only makes sense that mandatory kindergarten be a part of that plan as it will promote continuity in the educational experiences keiki have during their years when brain development occurs.

This measure must be implemented in order for Hawaii's youth to be properly equipped with important life skills. While the number of keiki not attending kindergarten is not large (5% according to Deborah Zysman, Executive Director of Good Beginnings Alliance testimony dated January 28, 2014), it is important that all of our keiki attend kindergarten.

The Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment (HSSRA) for the 2012 -2013 School Year estimates that approximately 43% of Hawaii's keiki entered kindergarten without preschool experience. (Note: The statistics for SY 2013 -2014 were not available at the time when this testimony was written.)

A lack of school readiness that is provided by quality early learning experiences prior to kindergarten (i.e., preschool) undermines reading proficiency, the leading indicator of long term academic and life success. This inevitably creates an achievement gap and

has a negative impact on the child as he/she may lose interest and motivation to learn because he/she lacks the foundation to establish reading proficiency.

If a child does not attend preschool and does not attend kindergarten because it is not mandatory, the problem is magnified making the achievement gap larger and larger.

Making kindergarten mandatory is one of the things that should be done to ensure that the future of our keiki is a bright and successful one.

I also support the bill as it requires the Department of Education (DOE) to work collaboratively with the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) to create a statewide kindergarten readiness program and establishes an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system.

The EOEL is staffed by individuals who have a diverse background that will guide them in addressing the needs of the whole child; that is education, health, safety and welfare ~ not just the child's physical health, but his/her social and emotional health as well.

The EOEL staff also understands how important the early years are and that children develop at their own pace. Establishing an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment that is guided by individuals who understand child development, health, safety and welfare insures that each child will be seen as an individual. This will, I believe, dramatically decrease the number of children falling through the cracks and close the achievement gap.

As an educator I am in support of HB14 HD1 as it continues to help Hawaii move towards investing its future by investing in our keiki.

The time to invest in our keiki is now. Hawaii cannot wait any longer. The Aloha State deserves better. Our keiki deserve better.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB14 HD1.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 10:18 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: plbhawaii@me.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB14 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM*

HB14

Submitted on: 2/21/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Bonham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

From: beamanwc@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 8:37 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

William Beaman
718 10th Ave #C
Honolulu, HI 96816-2279

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

William Beaman

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: georgia_blas@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Georgia Blas
94-506 Kaikua Place
Waipahu, HI 96797-2707

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Georgia Blas-Kindergarten Teacher

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: leanne_dunn@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Leanne Dunn
P.o. Box 1851
Makawao, HI 96768-1851

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

Dear House Committee on Finance Hearing, I urge you to consider supporting HB14, mandatory kindergarten. As a first grade teacher I have seen students come to me without any prior school experience in kindergarten or in pre-school. With the support of a whole school and their families working together they can make the gains they need to succeed however it is always an up hill battle. Having mandatory kindergarten would ensure that the transition to first grade, its requirements and academics standards would be smoother. Please consider mandatory kindergarten as it would help so many children, families and our future leaders gain the knowledge they need to succeed.

With aloha,

Leanne M Dunn
8082808861

LATE

From: ketyfong@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 10:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Ketty Fong
527-A N. Judd St.
Honolulu, HI 96817-2277

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

As a current Kindergarten teacher I feel this law will be beneficial to all students. Early childhood is a critical learning period for our keiki. What's the point in preschool if parents are going to keep their child home during the year they should be attending kindergarten? Making kindergarten mandatory will also hold parents accountable for their child's education. You cannot expect a child with the age of a first grader attending first grade without even having attended kindergarten.

That child will be set up for failure and many future problems. Common Core State Standards also begin at kindergarten so if a child does not attend kindergarten they will not have the foundational knowledge to be successful in first grade and on. I strongly support this bill. It should be passed before we continue with our supports for early childhood education

Sincerely,

Ketty Fong

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: ngoo@hawaii.edu
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 6:47 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Nohea Goo
1155 Aikoo Place
Pearl City, HI 96782-2622

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Nohea Goo



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
The House
Committee on Finance

LATE

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 21, 2014

H.B. 14 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports H.B. 14 H.D. 1, which makes kindergarten attendance mandatory for all children who are at least five years of age on or before July 31 of the school year. This measure also provides specific exceptions.

One of the greatest investment we can make as a community is to invest resources into ensuring that our children receive a quality education. This measure makes an initial appropriation for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the administration, training, technology, and necessary supports and staffing, we respectfully request consideration of ongoing appropriations to continue this invaluable investment in our children's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 14 H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilbert Holck
Deputy Executive Director

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: kkmart@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Kim Holokai
Po box 3215
Wailuku, HI 96793-8215

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Kim Holokai

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: mikekline999@msn.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 10:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Michael Kline
P.O. Box 1201
Kilauea, HI 96754-1201

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Michael Kline
651-9992

FIN-Jo

From: dabuel247@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

LATE

Dwayne Abuel
94-1053 Leomana Pl.
Waipahu, HI 96797-4079

February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started. With monies, facilities, and certified teachers available to support such a venture.

Sincerely,

Dwayne Abuel
(808)6762102



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

LATE

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
February 21, 2014

H.B. 14, HD1 - RELATING TO EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO supports H.B. 14, HD1 which amends the compulsory education law to make kindergarten mandatory and develops a statewide individualized kindergarten readiness tool and establishes an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment process.

Investments in education, especially early childhood education are important for our keiki's success. Making kindergarten mandatory is an investment that will payoff for future generations and help students succeed and perform well in school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President

finance1

From: mialucina@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Mia Beatty
59-740 Alapio Rd
Haleiwa, HI 96712-9515

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Mia Beatty

FIN-Jo

From: buller.laura@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



LAURA BULLER
PO BOX 6
KUALAPUU, HI 96757-0006

February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

LAURA BULLER
8086585230

finance1

From: annieckcross@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Anne Cross
PO Box 125
Hakalau, HI 96710-0125

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

As an elementary school teacher and parent, I support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Anne C. K. Cross
808-937-5671

FIN-Jo

From: roeleno@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: HB14 Mandatory Kindergarten



Romeo Eleno
PO Box 630266
Lanai City, HI 96763-0266

February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

Dear House Committee on Finance,

If we are looking at what's best for the interest of every child in Hawaii, we need to take the next step in making kindergarten mandatory.

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

I urge you to make the right decision in fully funding and supporting HB14.

Sincerely,

Romeo Eleno
8082232482

From: jae03753@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

John A Epstein
92-01047 Koio Dr Villa D
Kapolei, HI 96707

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance



Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started. As a previous elementary teacher and current middle school teacher in the HIDOE, I can attest to the important value of learning gained from regular attendance in kindergarten versus students lacking such early education. I urge passage of this initiative.

Sincerely,

John A Epstein
808-226-5656

finance1

LATE

From: sfreitag@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Teri Freitag
p.o. box 601
Eleele, HI 96705-0601

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Teri Freitag



February 19, 2014

LATE

TO: Chair Sylvia Luke
Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Testimony in support of HB14 HD1: RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance **supports HB14 HD1**, which seeks to make kindergarten mandatory in Hawaii for a child who is at least five years old on July 31 of the school year. The measure also calls on the Department of Education and the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to collaborate on developing kindergarten readiness program and an individual readiness assessment system.

As the Hawaii state legislature continues to develop and invest in a comprehensive early childhood education system, the inclusion of mandatory Kindergarten makes sense. Kindergarten education provides Hawaii's children an unparalleled educational experience that ensures age appropriate reading and writing proficiency, as well important interpersonal skills. Currently, over 95% of Hawaii children attend kindergarten.

Importantly, HB14 HD1 also provides for the development of a new individual student assessment system to replace the current Hawaii state school readiness assessment (HSSRA). GBA supports this effort as it is an invaluable tool to help measure the skills and abilities of children entering the DOE system, as well as the range of preschool and childcare experiences that a child may or may not have had. This information helps teachers and families better address an individual student's needs, and helps policymakers better address the needs of our overall education system.

HB14 HD1 ensures that mandatory Kindergarten in our state comes with the quality oversight, investment in teacher training and resources, and protections for parents who choose not to take part in the proposed assessment system.

Thank you for allowing GBA to offer testimony in support.

Sincerely,
Deborah Zysman
Executive Director

Good Beginnings Alliance

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

February 21, 2014

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB14 HD1, requiring Kindergarten to be mandatory.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports mandatory Kindergarten for our students. The Coalition in recent years has supported Early Learning legislation, as our members believe that the earlier a child is exposed to school, the better outcomes for student achievement. HB14 makes clear that all five-year olds are required to attend school, ensuring consistency from a pre-Kindergarten program to a Kindergarten program. We have heard from school administrators that while most children enroll in Kindergarten, because it is not mandatory, some families will not feel compelled to send their children to school on consistent basis. Therefore, along with the change in legislation, we also recommend an outreach program be implemented to educate families about the change in the law along with the importance of daily attendance.

The Coalition also supports establishing a uniform statewide Kindergarten readiness process as well as an individualized Kindergarten readiness assessment system. We like that there will be collaboration between the Executive Office of Early Learning and the Department of Education, so that alignment is maintained.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21
Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*DOE Windward District
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
Voting Members (*)

finance1

LATE

From: ehueu22@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Elizabeth Hueu
2114 Atherton Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822-2137

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORT

The Honorable Chair Roy Takumi, The Honorable Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno and the Members of the Committee:

I support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

I teach at Aiea Elementary School. Since kindergarten is not mandatory, some of our students are absent as many as 100 days in kindergarten because mothers keep their little ones home for their own comfort. The Common Core State Standards for first grade are very rigorous for students who are entering school with little or no school experience. Just imagine a child who has no concept of the number system or phonemic awareness independently solving addition and subtraction word problems by the end of first grade.

Mandatory kindergarten should have been in place before the adoption of the Common Core State Standards, before joining the SBAC consortium for State testing at 3rd grade, before basing teacher evaluation and pay on the growth of student scores, in my opinion.

Thank you for your consideration my STRONG support for mandatory kindergarten.

Aloha,

Mrs. Elizabeth Hueu
808-483-7200



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 14, HD1, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**

**House Committee on Finance
Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Hon. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

Honorable Chair Luke and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of House Bill 14, HD1, relating to early childhood education.

Kindergarten is an essential part of early education, setting the stage for success in school and beyond. In all but 14 states, however, kindergarten is not mandatory for keiki, who can miss out on key introductions to reading, writing, mathematics, science, and peer socialization, all without repercussions redounding to parents. This has got to change. All children deserve an equal playing field, especially when it comes to educational achievement. The National Center for Education Statistics has states that over the course of a single year, kindergarten students can improve reading and math scores by 10 and 8 percentile points, respectively. Kindergarten offers long-term benefits to society as well. When coupled with quality early childhood education programs, mandatory kindergarten can enhance and accelerate crime reduction, decreased healthcare costs, and improved economic prospects. Between promoting academic success and advancing socioeconomic prosperity, kindergarten effectively defines success for future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

finance1

From: jessieprest@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 6:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Jessie O'Neill-Prest
129B Auhana Road
Kihei, HI 96753-6817

February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Jessie O'Neill-Prest
8082801770

finance1

From: honua@mac.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

LATE

Terry Low
4762 Hauaala Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746-1813

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Terry Low
808 822-3790

FIN-Jo

From: jmaeda1227@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:37 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Jodi Maeda
P.O. Box 604
Lihue, HI 96766-0604

February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

My name is Jodi Maeda and I am a teacher at Kaua'i High School. I am writing in strong support of HB14. I believe it is vital for students to receive a quality education at a young age. While not all children have the opportunity to attend preschool, kindergarten is available to ALL children. The opportunity is already in place. Making kindergarten mandatory for all children ensures that they will receive the necessary academic and social skills and hopefully reduce the gap in academic and social levels that may currently exist in first grade.

Many people do not seem to understand that while most children are ENROLLED in kindergarten, there is no attendance requirement. Therefore, a student may enroll and only attend for 50% of the school year, but could be passed along with his/her peers to the next grade level, even if they do not have the skills necessary for the next grade level.

In addition, with the Governor's proposed preschool initiatives, it would not make sense to fund preschool for children and invest all that money when families would be able to make kindergarten attendance an option. All of the academic gains made in preschool could easily be lost over the course of a year, if the child is not attending kindergarten on a regular basis.

I believe making kindergarten mandatory would contribute to reducing the retention rate, helping close the achievement gap, and increase student's self-confidence at a much earlier age.

Please support HB14 and help ensure that our keiki are able to get a quality education at an early age. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Jodi Maeda

finance1

From: orre001@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:37 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

LATE

Eve Orr
PO Box 884
Captian Cook, HI 96704-0884

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

As a first grade teacher and a teacher helping each and every keiki succeed, I know this law will help our students be more prepared for the future. You have my full support.

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Eve Orr

finance1

LATE

From: linda_paisley@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:57 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Linda Paisley
67-1225 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Kamuela, HI 96743-8429

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws. I strongly support HB14.

Sincerely,

Linda Paisley
8088875636

finance1

From: cjpasco@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:27 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Colleen Pasco
P.O. Box 597
Kapaau, HI 96755-0597

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

As a teacher, parent, and grandparent, I know the importance of early education in the academic success of a child. Mandatory kindergarten is the first step in helping children in school. Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Colleen Pasco
808-884-5042

FIN-Jo

From: lisa.simmerman@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Lisa Simmerman
P O Box 227
HVNP, HI 96718-0227

February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started. Each subsequent generation of keiki is dire need of skills seldom taught at home.

Sincerely,

Lisa Simmerman
808-985-9166

FIN-Jo

From: kathrynsmith8@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Kathryn Smith
4465 Emmalani Drive
Princeville, HI 96722-5417



February 20, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Smith

finance1

LATE

From: rataylor69@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 7:22 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Regina Taylor
2110 Kaneka St., Apt. 175
Lihue, HI 96766-8015

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Regina Taylor
8086524651

finance1

From: gja100@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:17 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Je Ann Williams
94-212 Kealohi Street
Mililani, HI 96789-2633

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Je Ann Williams

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: maia.daugherty@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 8:17 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Maia Daugherty
P.O. Box 895
Kealahou, HI 96750-0895

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

I support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

If early childhood education is critically important for Hawaii, why is Kindergarten not mandatory. Mandatory means FUNDING! The bottom line that affects education is funding.

Although every elementary school has Kindergarten it is not mandatory and is under funded in allocations and positions.

PLEASE support this HB14 for our keiki! Mahalo

Sincerely,

Maia
8083223927

LATE

From: deb_malloy@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:37 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Debbie Malloy
46-146 Kiowai St. #2624
Kaneohe, HI 96744-3674

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started. Early education is

of utmost importance for all children so they can start their education on the right foot. They need to develop emotional, social, academic, adaptive, fine-motor, gross motor skills, friendships, etc. Please make Kindergarten mandatory!!

Sincerely,

Debbie Malloy

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: robinhilo@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 4:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Robin Miller
165-A Hukulani Street
Hilo, HI 96720-6700

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Robin Miller
808 6400790

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: kristim808@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 8:42 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Kristi Miyamae
1441 Hoohulu Street
Pearl City, HI 96782-2917

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

Dear Legislators,
I would like to ask for your support of HB14. Full day, mandatory kindergarten is an important starting block for children. If we are looking to make early childhood education a priority, it needs to start with our 5 year olds. Let's create a solid foundation for our kindergarteners.

Sincerely,

Kristi Miyamae

From: lokitahsta@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:47 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Logan Okita
1914 10th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816-2910

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

As a former kindergarten teacher, current first grade teacher, and Nationally Board Certified Teacher (Early Childhood Generalist), I believe in the power that early childhood education has on developing a strong foundation for successful school experiences and lifelong learning and it is extremely important that students attend kindergarten. With the current academic expectations implemented by the Common Core State Standards, students who do not attend kindergarten regularly or are not enrolled in kindergarten, have a great deal to catch up on in order to be successful in first grade and beyond.

Sincerely,

Logan Okita
808-384-5595

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: yrapozo@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 9:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Yvette Rapozo
PO Box 1195
Kapaa, HI 96746-1195

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started. With the rigors in school being so high, I feel students need to attend Kindergarten in order to lay a solid foundation.

Sincerely,

Yvette Rapozo
808-482-0327

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: leikumai@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 5:32 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Summer Santiago
PO BOX 330997
Kahului, HI 96733-0997

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Summer Santiago

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: rstewart99489@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 10:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Roxane Stewart
1889-A Kilauea Ave.
Hilo, HI 96720-5059

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Roxane Stewart
8089810270

finance1

From: puananig@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 9:17 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing



Evette Tampos
P.O. 6279
Hilo, HI 96720

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

Aloha My Legislators,

My name is Evette Tampos & I am a school counselor at Pahoa Elementary School. I have been an educator for twenty years with the Department of Education.

I am writing in strong support of HB14.

In my 20 years for the department I have always supported the need for full day mandatory kindergarten programs. Early childhood public school education should always be a priority. Our schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before any new project is started.

Since kindergarten is not mandatory it is impossible to impose the same kind of expectation of daily attendance on students below the age of first grade. Thus, when I see a kindergarten student who is excessively absent there is no recourse to ask for the Family Court's assistance with a truancy petition nor making any type of CWS referral for educational neglect.

I believe it is because kindergarten is NOT mandatory we allow our most vulnerable learners to begin bad habits of absenteeism and tardiness-two habits that many carry with them throughout their elementary careers. These bad habits influence their ability to do well in school and also influence their habits later in life when they transition from school to work.

I encourage you to support HB14 to send a message that Hawaii cares about our most vulnerable learners and we want them to get off to a great start & form good habits of attendance that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Sincerely,

Evette Tampos
8089907573

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: sheri_boo@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Sheri Yoshikane
95-1121 Koolani Drive #182
Mililani, HI 96789-5911

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Sheri Yoshikane
808-675-0266

From: mrjperez@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 10:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Joseph Perez
6236 KAWAIHAE PL APT 104
HONOLULU, HI 96825-1921

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

The current focus on funding early childhood education has completely ignored the fact that Hawaii does NOT require kindergarten attendance.

If pre-kindergarten instruction is important, then KINDERGARTEN is CRITICAL and should be MANDATORY for all children in the state.

Moreover, we MUST ensure that there is adequate funding to support this CRITICAL need BEFORE we can properly address the issue of pre-kindergarten instruction and funding.

To do otherwise would be both irresponsible, contrary to common sense, and represents another instance in which the state moves to poorly establish and fund a new program BEFORE addressing a critical shortcoming of an existing program.

Students entering 1st grade are significantly disadvantaged by not attending kindergarten. Please make kindergarten attendance mandatory.

Mahalo

Sincerely,

Joseph Perez
8084898969

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: felicia_lobos@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 10:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Felicia Villalobos
4341 Kailewa St
Lihue, HI 96766-9412

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

I'm a first grade teacher at Wilcox Elementary School on the island of Kaua'i and I strongly support full day mandatory kindergarten programs.

If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Felicia Villalobos
(808) 634-2322

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 1:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ilikered3@rocketmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB14 on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM

LATE

HB14

Submitted on: 2/21/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Elento	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: We do not need to mandate school at age 5. A child with disabilities, such as Developing a little slower than typical such as my child born with Down syndrome, needs to have access to preschool, kindergarten, first grade and homeschool without further restriction such as chronological age, with family and parental choice a priority. The Dept. of Education has further reporting requirements for homeschooled students and should be specifically waived for kindergarten students.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: hawaiiichisholm@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 2:52 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Joy chisholm
4694 kua rd
Kalaheo, HI 96741-9116

February 21, 2014

2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

Sincerely,

Joy chisholm
8083465359

finance8-Danyl

LATE

From: demarcj49@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 5:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: FEB 21: House Committee on Finance Hearing

Joe DeMarco
91-1079 Oaniani St 11G
Kapolei, HI 96707-2623

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2014 House Committee on Finance

Dear 2014 House Committee on Finance:

HB14 - STRONGLY SUPPORTS

Teachers support full day mandatory kindergarten programs. If early childhood education is a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started. Many of my students are 3-4 grade levels below where they should be in terms of reading and math, kindergarten might help alleviate some of these problems.

Sincerely,

Joe DeMarco
(808) 840-0147