



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
H.B. 1676, Relating to Early Learning
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

House Committee on Education
February 5, 2014
2:00 p.m., Room 309

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. I am GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning. EOEL is in support of House Bill 1676.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools to use vacant or underutilized classrooms for public preschool classrooms statewide.

EOEL requests that \$4,470,208 be appropriated for this purpose to be used in FY2015 for the 2014-2015 school year. This will provide an additional 640 four-year-old children with access to preschool.

Partnering with the Department of Education is an important part of the early learning system that EOEL is charged with developing pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012.

To understand where we are today and where we want to go in 2014, it is important to know the following:

This November, there will be a question on the ballot that will ask voters whether public funds can be used to fund private, community-based preschools. If voters approve, the State will be allowed to fund quality preschool experiences at private, community-based preschools such as those operated by KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, Kama'aina Kids, and

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Seagull Schools. While we await the outcome of the vote, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is requesting additional resources to increase the number of four-year-olds who will be able to access preschool in August 2014.

There will be an increased number of four-year-olds – about 5,100 – who need a preschool experience but are too young to go to kindergarten due to the change in kindergarten entry age that takes effect the 2014-2015 school year.

Last year, the Legislature funded the Preschool Open Doors program (\$6 million to the Department of Human Services), which covers 1,200 of the 5,100 children at private, community-based preschools. Under the POD program, families receive a subsidy they can take to a community-based preschool of their choice. However, with over 17,000 four-year-olds in Hawaii, many more families want access to quality preschools.

The Hawaii Department of Education has identified 32 classrooms at 30 public schools that can operate a prekindergarten program. Some of these schools already have prekindergarten programs using funding sources that will be ending. The supplemental budget request for \$4.5 million will be able to support access to prekindergarten experiences for 640 free- and reduced-price meal eligible children.

The supplemental budget request also asks for \$1 million for EOEL to contract with family-child interaction learning programs (where a parent attends with their child) to increase the number of four-year-olds – about 400 – who will benefit from this learning opportunity.

The purpose of all of these programs is to increase the number of four-year-olds (1040) who will have the opportunity for a prekindergarten experience.

The proposed DOE-EOEL program will have the following characteristics:

- Operates within the DOE structure
 - 32 classrooms at 30 schools statewide (list attached)
 - Schools identified using the following criteria: Title I status, rural location or limited preschool choices, existing preschool with Race to the Top or other federal funding support that is ending, and principal support
 - Staffed by HSTA/DOE teachers and HGEA assistants
- Serves 640 children (those eligible for free- and reduced-price meals)
- EOEL will offer professional development support

EOEL requests that the following amendments be made to further clarify the program:

Page 1, lines 8-10:

“... to use vacant or underutilized classrooms **or classrooms currently being used for preschool** for public preschool classrooms statewide.”

Page 1, line 11:

“... The office shall only enter into contracts **or memorandums of agreement ...**”

Page 2, line 9:

“... vacant or underutilized classrooms **or classrooms currently being used for preschool for use as public preschool classrooms.**”

EOEL respectfully asks that the committee move this bill forward with the proposed amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



#	School	Principal	Island	Complex Area Superintendent
1	Kahaluu Elementary	Naomi Matsuzaki	Oahu	Lea Albert
2	Waiahole Elementary	Wendy Matsuzaki	Oahu	Lea Albert
3	Hauula Elementary	Samuel Izumi	Oahu	Lea Albert
4	Linapuni Elementary	Cindy Sunahara	Oahu	Calvin Nomiyama
5	Hana High & Elementary	Richard Paul	Maui	Lindsay Ball
6	Lanai High & Elementary	Elton Kinoshita	Lanai	Lindsay Ball
7	Kaunakakai Elementary	Janice Espiritu	Molokai	Lindsay Ball
8	Honokaa Elementary	Rory Souza	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
9	Honaunau Elementary	Noreen Kunitomo	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
10	Hookena Elementary	Joyce K. Crisafi	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
11	Konawaena Elementary	Claire Yoshida	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
12	Keolu Elementary	Gay Kong	Oahu	Suzanne Mulcahy
13	Kailua Elementary	Lanelle Hibbs	Oahu	Suzanne Mulcahy
14	Kaiulani Elementary	Rodney Moriwake	Oahu	Ruth Silberstein
15	Likelike Elementary	Kelly Bart	Oahu	Ruth Silberstein
16	Eleele Elementary	Fred Rose	Kauai	William Arakaki
17	Kekaha Elementary	Jason Yoshida	Kauai	William Arakaki
18	Kau High & Pahala Elementary	Sharon Beck	Hawaii	Mary Correa
19	Naalehu Elementary	Darlene Javar	Hawaii	Mary Correa
20	Keaau Elementary	Chad Farias	Hawaii	Mary Correa
21	Mountain View Elementary	Barbara Riley	Hawaii	Mary Correa
22	Keonepoko Elementary	Kathleen Romero	Hawaii	Mary Correa
23	Pahoa Elementary	Michelle Payne-Arakaki	Hawaii	Mary Correa
24	Waialua Elementary	Scott Moore	Oahu	John Brummel
25	Nanaikapono Elementary	Debra Knight	Oahu	Ann Mahi
26	Nanakuli Elementary	Lisa Ann Higa	Oahu	Ann Mahi
27	Leihoku Elementary	Randall Miura	Oahu	Ann Mahi
28	Maili Elementary	Disa Hauge	Oahu	Ann Mahi
29	Makaha Elementary	Lynn Okamura	Oahu	Ann Mahi
30	Waianae Elementary	Wendy Takahashi	Oahu	Ann Mahi



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

Date: 02/05/2014

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1676 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. Makes an appropriation.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1676. The Department recognizes the importance of establishing a quality early learning system to support all children in their journey towards a college- and career-ready future in Hawaii.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 5, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1676 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2014; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purposes of this bill are to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms and to make an appropriation for such agreements.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

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

The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program will serve 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.

There are, however, communities throughout the State which do not have preschools available to which families could send their children, even if the families are eligible for the POD program. Therefore, the POD program would not benefit families for whom community-based preschools are not available.

Therefore, the ability of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms and an appropriation for such agreements would benefit families in communities where community-based preschools are not available.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: HB 1676 Relating to Early Learning
DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2014
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support of HB 1676

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission supports this measure, which would include public charter schools along with Department of Education (DOE) schools among those with which the Executive Office on Early Learning is authorized to enter into agreements to use vacant or underutilized classrooms for public preschool classrooms statewide.

The Commission applauds the recognition of charter schools embodied in this measure and notes that several charter schools are experienced providers of pre-K programs, while other pre-K services are provided on or next to charter school campuses by the non-profit organization affiliated with that charter school or by other providers. Some of the campuses at which such services are provided serve precisely the kind of the poor and rural communities that are the focus of proposed early childhood education initiatives.

We do have a concern that the bill’s language concerning “vacant or underutilized classrooms,” depending on its meaning, might unintentionally limit the ability of charter schools to contribute to the state effort envisioned by the bill. As a practical matter, because of the challenges charter schools confront in addressing their facilities needs, the Commission is not

certain that charter schools currently have unused or underutilized classrooms. However, if the intent is merely to ensure that any public school that is to be considered for participation be able to make suitable space available to house a preschool program, we would respectfully request that the Committee ensure that this intent is clear.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 1676 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1676 Relating to Early Learning.

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 provide services to the gap group that will result from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age (children must be five years old by July 31 of the school year to enroll in DOE kindergarten) mandated by Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. DOE estimates there are 5,100 children in the gap. It is critical that immediate action is taken to make sure these children are covered.

The Chamber supports the bill's intent to provide facilities for early childhood learning – a necessary tool to shape the future of Hawaii. Providing a proper environment for the children of Hawaii is the first step to investing in a bright future for the next generation.

Also, the Chamber strongly believes that focusing on 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.



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House of Representatives
Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

House Bill 1676– Relating to Early Learning

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) **supports** the intent HB1676.

This bill authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. It also makes an appropriation.

HAEYC acknowledges the vision and courage it takes for legislators to enact laws that will come to full fruition after they leave office. Investing in early childhood development and education will be a lasting legacy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC

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



Wednesday, February 5, 2014
2:00 PM
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 1676 – Relating to Early Learning

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

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 support of HB 1676 as this is one of the first and necessary steps needed to proceed with the establishment of a statewide early learning system to enhance school readiness. Hawaii is one of only ten states that does not have an established statewide early learning program, which means that we are missing a very crucial window of opportunity in the neural brain development of our young children.

The passage of this bill is particularly important because it will target the children of our most at-risk families; those who are most likely to enter kindergarten without the necessary foundational skills for learning and those who are unable to pay for a preschool education.

State subsidy programs such as Preschool Open Doors help families to supplement payments to existing private preschool providers, however for many families the co-payment is still unreasonably high and a preschool education is unattainable.

It makes sound fiscal sense to utilize vacant and underutilized public and charter school classrooms and to create additional jobs within the public school system.

Regardless of the outcome of the Constitutional Amendment vote at the next election, the state can, and should, proceed with the development of the public preschool infrastructure in order to accommodate the increased number of children who are ineligible to attend kindergarten during school year 2014-2015 due to the change in entry age requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter**

P O Box 260
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6906

Testimony in support of:
HB 1676 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools and
HB2276 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program

House Committee on Education
Feb 5, 2014
2:00 pm, Conf. Rm 309

Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and members of the Education Committee

I am in strong support of HB 1676 and HB 2276.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School located on the island of Molokai recognizes the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our community of Molokai does not yet have the capacity to serve all of these children, and it is therefore imperative that we make available all public resources, including charter schools, to provide high quality preschool services.

As the Principal of a public conversion charter school, serving many high-risk children and families, Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School is poised to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

For five years now, Kualapu'u PCS has operated a preschool classroom serving 20 low-income children who have successfully matriculated to our Kindergarten program. Unfortunately funding for this preschool will end this year, exacerbating the blow of the loss of our Jr.K. program. With funding from the EOEL, Kualapu'u would therefore make available a least 1 preschool classroom(s) to ensure continuation of quality early education services to our keiki.

In addition to working with the EOEL to ensure preschool services for the keiki at our charter school (HB1676), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that builds capacity through private sector partnerships (HB2276). It is critical that the State maintain its vision and obligation to provide our young children with early learning opportunities and a public and private delivery system is the only feasible option to make

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

this happen. We therefore support HB2276, as it ensures that contracted providers meet high quality early education standards that research has demonstrated safeguards children's learning and success.

In addition to my support, although I was unable to attach to this testimony, we have at least 6 support letters and at least 170 signatures of individual parent and community members who support the continuing of Kualapu'u's Pre-Kindergarten program. We hope HB 1676 with consequent appropriations, would enable Kualapuu PCCS to continue our PreKindergarten program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these bills.



Lydia M. Trinidad
Principal
Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School
Kualapu'u, Moloka'i, Hawai'i

Testimony in support of:

HB1676 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools,

HB2276 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program and

House Committee on Education

Feb 5, 2014

2:00 pm, Conf. Rm. 309

Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and members of the Education Committee

I am in support of HB1676 and HB2276, as they increase the state's capacity to provide quality early learning services to Hawaii's young children.

I am the Project Director of an early childhood education project in Wai`anae serving high-risk children and families, many of whom will have no feasible alternative, once the children are no longer eligible for Kindergarten.

Let me therefore state that I am *not* in agreement with the legislature's 2004 decision (ACT 219) to raise the age of entry into Kindergarten, which has been the stimulus behind consequent efforts to provide both Jr.K and now Pre-K to serve the so called "late born" children.

I do support a state funded Early Childhood Education program, *but only in addition to serving the existing 5100 late borns, not at the expense of eliminating Kindergarten services to these children.* The research simply does not back up the assumptions made in 2004, that late born children make for "un-equitable" comparisons between Hawaii's students and other states on achievement tests in their later years. Studies show that developmental K programs such as Jr.K, or retaining K students for two years, or redshirting / delaying K entry, were not beneficial.

With that said, I do recognize the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. The state clearly does not yet have the capacity to serve *all* of these children, and it is therefore imperative that we harness all public and private resources including charter schools, to provide high quality preschool services.

I would recommend that until the public and private early learning system has the capacity to serve *all* 4 year old children, without displacing the younger three or two year old cohorts currently served in the private system, that the state maintain the current K entry age of December 31 and gradually move up the entry age, as it simultaneously builds the capacity of public and private mixed delivery early learning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these bills.

Gale Flynn,
Ho`okahua Early Childhood Education Project Director



February 4, 2014

TO: Chair Roy Takumi
Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno
Members of the House Committee on Education

FROM: Deborah Zysman
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB1676:** RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports HB1676**, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. GBA strongly supports efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively in this way to expand preschool options to more of Hawaii's children – with an emphasis on at-risk children.

HB1676 provides EOEL with the statutory authority to act in executing its mission to ensure that Hawaii's four-year-olds have the quality early learning experiences they need to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

GBA is in support of HB1676 and thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,
Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

INPEACE- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture**TESTIMONY****HBs 2276, 14 & 1676****RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, LEARNING and KINDERGARTEN**

Testimony Presented Before Committee on Education
 February 4, 2014, in Conference Room 414 @ 1:30 pm
 by Dr. Kanoe Nāone, Chief Executive Officer, INPEACE

INPEACE, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, supports HB2276, 14 & 1676.

We know that 85% of the brain is developed by the time children turn 5. As a former Department of Education elementary teacher and as a mother I have seen the benefits of early education and what happens when children don't have access to quality learning. The single largest impact on the well being of our K-12 system is access to early childhood education. By providing families, especially those in low-income areas, access to early learning we can dramatically and positively shift the well being of the children in those schools and areas. We believe an equitable early learning system is of critical importance to the success of our children and the economic future of our state. The elimination of Junior Kindergarten will affect more than 5,000 children in our communities, with the largest impact on those most at risk and who will not have access to preschool or early education before entering kindergarten.

As a Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) provider, INPEACE **supports HB 2276** upon ratification, because it will move our state one step closer to building a viable early learning system. To establish this, we are committed to working with multiple organizations and agencies to offer a range of early learning programs that meet different needs and values to effectively serve the community more broadly and support the success of our most at-risk children. We support a system that provides families with culturally responsive, high-quality early learning opportunities that enables healthy, successful development, and the ability of each child to reach their full potential. As an FCIL provider, we understand the value of early childhood education in providing vital and culturally responsive services to some of the state's highest need populations. We are able to achieve success via FCILs by empowering families with the knowledge they need in order to support their children throughout school and life. Collectively, there are 6 organizations who are a part of 'Eleu (an early childhood consortium) and collectively we annually serve more than 25,000 children and their families statewide. Our FCILs are strategically placed in underserved areas where there are high concentrations of Native Hawaiians and minority populations. As a result, these families have access to **FREE &** high quality early childhood education, a critical need in at-risk areas. FCILs are an established setting within the early learning system. We humbly ask for state support to send a clear message to all that the state is willing to diversify the early learning options based on family need and choice!

We support **HB 1676** to amend H.R.S. §302L to authorize agreements to use underutilized DOE and charter school facilities for preschool programs with reservations. We currently utilize classrooms in the DOE for 11 of our preschool sites already and have been doing so in some cases for the last 15 years, so we want to be sure that we are able to continue those partnerships if this bill passes. The lack of facilities and the high cost associated with them make it very difficult for preschool programs to thrive. This amendment has the ability to support preschools and systems alignment between the HIDOE and the early childhood system to ensure our children and their families have a smooth transition from their preschool programs into kindergarten.

We support **HB14** because it establishes transition to kindergarten as a mandate of the early learning system. We support this bill because it encourages collaboration & alignment between the early learning system and the HIDOE.

INPEACE is a non-profit, educational organization that annually serves more than 4,500 children, parents and community members through its early childhood and workforce development programs on five different islands. The work of INPEACE over the past 20 years has been extensive and progressive in Hawai'i, particularly within communities that do not otherwise have access to the services it provides. On a daily basis, we see the critical role early learning plays in the economic wellbeing of communities, especially those in areas where poverty is prevalent. We also have statistically significant educational outcomes for the children in our FCIL programs making it a viable option for school readiness.



Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Relating To House Bill 1676
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports HB1676 Relating to Early Learning**, which would authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms for preschool.

The first five years of a child's life is an incredibly important time for their brain development and this bill would increase opportunities for learning in an academic setting. The Party believes allowing EOEL to contract with the DOE and charter schools would benefit all parties involved. EOEL would be able to provide space for its preschool programs, while creating cost savings and greater efficiency for the DOE and charter schools by maximizing space currently available and unused.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



Ho`okāko`o Corporation

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Education

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

**Testimony in support of:
HB 2276 – Relating to Early Childhood Education and HB 1676**

Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and members of the Education Committee:

Ho`okāko`o is in strong support of HB 1676 and HB 2276.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Ho`okāko`o's Public Conversion Charter Schools recognize the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our public charter schools service communities such as the island of Molokai and the Leeward Coast of O`ahu (Wai`anae), which do not yet have the capacity to serve all of our public school children, especially in our high-need areas of the state. We therefore support the intention to make available all public resources to provide high quality preschool services.

As the Executive Director of three public conversion charter schools, serving many high-risk children and families, Ho`okāko`o is poised to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

In addition to working with the EOEL to ensure preschool services for the keiki at our charter schools (HB1676), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that builds capacity through private sector partnerships (HB2276). It is critical that the State maintain its vision and obligation to provide our young children with early learning opportunities and a public and private delivery system is the only feasible option to make this happen. We therefore support HB2276, as it ensures that contracted providers meet high quality early education standards that research has demonstrated safeguards children's learning and success.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these bills.

Sincerely,

Megan McCorriston
Executive Director



Testimony of Cindy McMillan
The Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

HB 2276 - Relating to Early Learning
HB 1676 – Relating to Early Childhood Education
Wednesday, February 5, 2014
2:00 PM
Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the committee,

The Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

PRP supports HB 2276, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS, and HB 1676, which authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

Last year, the Legislature made the courageous decision to begin building the foundation of a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii; you passed and funded a school readiness system and you looked ahead and passed a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the 2014 ballot to ask Hawaii's residents if we are ready to invest in a statewide community preschool system – a system that allows our parents, local non-profit preschools, and public school system to become partners working together to provide opportunities for all of our state's children.

Now, we need your help once again with the passage of HB 2276. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed.

Please support HB 2276 and HB 1676, and thank-you for allowing us to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future.



HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chairman
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Education
House of Representatives
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairman Takumi & Members of the Committee on Education:

HB1676 – HB Relating to Early Learning

HB 1676 authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the DOE and charter schools for the use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. The Hawaii Community Foundation supports this bill as an important component of a statewide early childhood education system. As a statewide charitable foundation, HCF has supported numerous organizations and agencies over the years in their efforts to build and deliver a quality early childhood program. Over that time we have seen compelling evidence of the critical importance of high quality early learning experiences for all children. It is hard to point to another single program that would do more to prepare so many young children for a successful start in school than early education. Children without these experiences regularly arrive at the doors of our kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms unprepared to learn. Quite often these children will struggle and lag behind their peers for years to come. As proposed, this bill will help to ensure that there are adequate facilities and classrooms to meet the needs of all children across the state.

HCF encourages your Committee to support the creation of this program for the benefit of all children in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Christine van Bergeijk
Vice President and COO



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

The House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh Legislature 2014
State of Hawai'i

TO: Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2014
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: HOUSE BILL 1676, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING Vacant Classrooms

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB1676, relating to early learning. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of authorizing the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. This bill also makes an appropriation.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and three- and-four-year-olds at preschool sites statewide. In 2004, the Early Childhood Education division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani Early Childhood Collaborative program. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other preschools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Education

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 309

Testimony in Support of HB1676, Relating to Early Learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB1676, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Education can provide a leveling of socio-economic impacts experienced by children from low-income families. These families are dealing with the challenges of Hawaii's high cost of living realities and are focused on providing the necessities, like food and housing. As a result children from low-income families are less likely to have the "extra" resources necessary to access high quality early childhood education programs. As studies have clearly shown, investing in a high-quality early childhood education will result in higher levels of educational attainment and stronger social and economic well-being. A strong start with early education provides a bridge to a different future for these children.

Once again, PHOCUSED supports HB1676 and the efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively to expand preschool options to more of Hawaii's children. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

February 5, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB1676, allowing the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education to use vacant or underutilized classrooms for public preschools statewide.

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 has consistently supported the establishment of a statewide early childhood learning program, supporting of the formation of the Executive Office of Early Learning, and the school readiness program, which targets the underserved and at-risk four-year-olds that will not be able to attend Junior Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 school year. Accordingly, the Coalition also supports the effort to expand pre-school at our public schools and the financial appropriation to do so, as an option to provide our children under the age of five, a high quality education experience. Access is key, especially in rural areas. We also continue to recommend an outreach program to families so that they understand the options available for their pre-Kindergarten children.

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	*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
Academy 21	*Parents and Children Together
After-School All-Stars Hawaii	*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Alliance for Place Based Learning	Punahou School PUEO Program
*Castle Complex Community Council	Teach for America
Center for Civic Education	The Learning Coalition
Coalition for Children with Special Needs	US PACOM
*DOE Windward District	University of Hawai'i College of Education
*Faith Action for Community Equity	YMCA of Honolulu
Fresh Leadership LLC	Voting Members (*)
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	
Kupu A'e	
*Leaders for the Next Generation	
Learning First	
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds	
Our Public School	

February 3, 2014
Hearing on Wednesday, February 5,, 2014 at 2 p.m.
House Education, Finance Committee
House Conference Room 309
In support of HB1676

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Celia Chang Takahashi and I am an Early Childhood Professional and the mother of two young children.

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of HB1676 relating to early childhood education, as it makes an appropriation to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

As an early childhood professional and parent I understand & am in support of the measures outlined in this bill. They are needed in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children.

For the previous two school years I was the parent of a preschool aged child. I would see, on a daily basis, parents struggling to send their child to a quality early learning program. Some were fortunate enough to qualify for public assistance (i.e., Preschool Open Doors, Childcare Connections, etc.), private financial assistance (i.e., Pauahi Keiki Scholars), or have assistance from their family.

I also saw families that fell in the "gap group" ~ that is those that do not qualify for any financial assistance and have no familial financial support. I saw how these families struggled everyday making difficult decisions on what they can sacrifice so they can pay for their child to attend a quality program.

As a parent and an educator, I believe that *the education of our children should not be*

seen as a sacrifice.

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. I believe that a fair amount of those keiki entered kindergarten without preschool experience because their families could not afford the monthly tuition.

(Note: The statistics for SY 2013 -2014 were not available at the time when this testimony was written.)

Supporting a variety of quality early learning experiences, including ones that uses vacant or underutilized classrooms on public school campuses is crucial because approximately 5,000 keiki will be affected by the kindergarten age change that will happen in Hawaii's public schools starting with the 2014 - 2015 school year.

If more than 40% of Hawaii's keiki were entering kindergarten without preschool experience during SY 2012 - 2013, the numbers in the near future could go up as families are impacted by the kindergarten age change and are still un able to find or afford preschool tuition or qualify for Head Start.

As an educator & mother of two young children I am in support of HB1676 as it provides eligible families with another option when considering developmentally appropriate, high quality early learning opportunities for their keiki.

It is time for us to seriously invest in the future of Hawaii making a solid investment our keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1676.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Education
Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.
by

Donald B. Young
Personal Testimony

HB 1676 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee on Education

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 1676, which authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

The research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. Part of that commitment is securing accessible, safe, and appropriate learning spaces for young children to learn and interact. HB 1676 provides a pathway for doing so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 11:26 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jkeoho@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1676 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1676

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jarrett Keohokalole	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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February 3, 2014
Hearing on Wednesday, February 5,, 2014 at 2 p.m.
House Education, Finance Committee
House Conference Room 309
In support of HB1676

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 HB1676 relating to early childhood education, as it makes an appropriation to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

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.

The Windward P-3 Demonstration project works collaboratively with DOE elementary schools, early learning programs of varying auspices, community based programs, health, safety, welfare providers, and families. We passionately work towards having developmentally appropriate early learning programs and services on our public and charter elementary campuses.

As an educator I am in support of HB1676 as it provides eligible families with another option when considering developmentally appropriate, high quality early learning opportunities for their keiki.

By investing in Hawaii's youngest residents today with an early learning system that provides a plethora of quality learning experiences, we invest in a future in Hawaii that:

- Has higher retention and graduation rates
- Has lower teen pregnancy/parent rates
- Invests in education more than incarceration

It is time for us to seriously invest in our future by making an investment in our keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1676.

ohno2-Rexie

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:41 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1676 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*

HB1676

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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Testimony to
The House of Representatives Education Committee

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
2:00 pm

Conference Room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: HB 1676, Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-chair Ohno and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a retired head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 1676, relating to early learning.

I am offering this testimony in support of authorizing the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for the use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. This bill makes an appropriation.

You are all probably quite familiar with the research that demonstrates the value of early learning for all children and the benefits that derive therefrom. Equally important is being able to provide the environment necessary to support quality early learning. Since the State DOE has underutilized facilities and a public program will require adequate space and capacity for conducting quality programs, I strongly urge you to support this bill including its appropriation to ensure that facilities will be available to serve our *keiki*.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, EdD

ohno2-Rexie

From: Cami Nihipali <nihipaliohana@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:08 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in opposition of HB1676 and HB2276

Cami Nihipali from Ewa Beach, HI writes:

Please do not pass these bills. Starting school isn't about best practices for our kids. Our children do not need to be forced into school earlier. Our children need their childhood. We should take a look at Finland's education practice (a nation ranking at the top in educational performance) of children starting school at 7 (when they are developmentally ready). I am an educator and have been for 15 years. This isn't in the best interest of our children.

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): nihipaliohana@hawaiiantel.net

First Name: Cami

Last Name: Nihipali

City: Ewa Beach
State: HI
ZIP Code: 96706

Form Letter for HB1676 and HB2276

Please see attached document for full list of individuals who submitted this form letter

Dear Chair Takumi and Vice-Chair Ohno, I am writing in support of HB1676, which authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms; and HB2276, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS. Last year, you made the courageous decision to begin building the foundation of a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii: you passed and funded a school readiness system and you looked ahead and passed a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the 2014 ballot to ask Hawaii's residents if we are ready to invest in a statewide community preschool system – a system that contracts with our local non-profit preschools and our public school system. Now, we need your help once again and pass HB2276. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed. Please support HB1676 and HB2276, and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

HB1676 and HB2276 Form Letter List

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9	Maureen Langberg	56	David Taichini	103	Jamie Goya
10	Arthur Bein	57	Jerrazzaylyn Paisi	104	Donna Kranz
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16	Melani Padgett	63	Mitchell Montayre Jr	110	Dayna Begonia
17	Arlene Tendo	64	Tanya Tehotu	111	Janice Duarosan
18	Kay Lipps	65	Lambert Panui	112	Chanel Cabrera
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22	Kiana Shiroma	69	Talosaga Leaeno	116	Maria Cueva
23	Renee Espiau	70	Brieyn Ortiz-Ramos	117	John Deliso
24	Marya Mann	71	Shela Mejia	118	Lenson Ka'aloa
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34	Tracy Ruggiero	81	Mister SOS	128	Clarissa Tote
35	Jin Chang	82	Tarla Martin	129	Sheyanne Ah Nee
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37	Misty Carver	84	Testiny Maida	131	Jayet Lynne Gomes
38	Ku'ulani Keohokalole	85	Jaquanna Hernandez	132	Salena Soares
39	Lisa Kimura	86	Mell Carmel	133	Lynn Wilson
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LATE

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 EDUCATION

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

RE: H.B. 1676 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports and recommends amendments to H.B. 1676** relating to the usage of vacant and underutilized classrooms for public preschool classrooms.

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 in public preschools being taught by public school teachers. The association recognizes the value of quality early childhood education program in preparing young children to enter schools ready to learn.

HSTA is seeking clarification in the proposed definition of a “qualified educational professional”. HSTA believes that high quality early childhood programs should be staffed by highly qualified teachers, as they possess a deep understanding of child development and specialized training in early childhood education. As such, we recommend that all teachers working in publicly funded preschools hold a bachelor’s degree in child development and/or early childhood education.

Further, we believe that federal legislation should be enacted to assist in organizing the implementation of fully funded early childhood education programs offered through the public schools. These programs must be available to all children on an equal basis and should include mandatory kindergarten with compulsory attendance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of H.B. 1676**.