



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony of Governor Neil Abercrombie
In **Support** of
H.B. 853, Proposing An Amendment to Article X, Section 1,
Of The Hawaii State Constitution To Permit The Appropriation Of Public Funds For Private Early
Childhood Education Programs
H.B. 862, Relating to School Readiness
H.B. 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education

House Committee on Education
February 1, 2013
2:00 p.m., Room 309

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

Good afternoon. I am here today to speak in **strong support of House Bills 853, 862, and 864.**

In my State of the State address, I emphasized that the greatest unfunded liability we have is the failure to address early childhood development and education in Hawaii. Today we are placing an unfair burden on our students, parents, and teachers in expecting them to make up for our failure to support children in their most formative years. In Hawaii, an alarming number of our children are entering school without the basics needed to succeed in school. In three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012-2013, the majority of students did not start school with basic skills in reading and mathematics nor the social-emotional behaviors necessary for success in school. Statewide, about 43% of students who entered kindergarten had not attended preschool.

High-quality early learning has a larger, long-term impact on our state. Local studies indicate that every \$1 invested in early learning generates \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii. Societies that invest in early learning programs boast higher levels of educational attainment; reduced homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and better overall social and economic well-being.

H.B. 862

Therefore, I am proposing the School Readiness Program as the first phase of this high-quality early learning program. The School Readiness Program will help children develop the skills and attitudes they need to be ready for kindergarten. The School Readiness Program will be delivered through contracts with DOE and DHS-licensed child care providers that meet quality standards. We are not talking about babysitting; we are talking about programs that prepare children for school.

The Program 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 group – those born between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. It is critical that we act now to make sure these children do not fall off the cliff – we must have the School Readiness Program ready for them.

H.B. 864

The School Readiness Program will lay the foundation for a program that will have greater educational impact – what is needed to truly make a difference in our children’s outcomes. The Early Childhood Education Program encapsulates the large, full-scale educational program for all children in the year before kindergarten, as described in H.B. 864.

The Early Childhood Education Program will produce positive educational and developmental outcomes for children to help them be ready for kindergarten and succeed in school. This will be a high-quality program with curriculum goals that are met through developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices in the context of positive teacher-child-family relationships. The program will be delivered through contracts with DOE and private early childhood education programs that meet educational outcomes through the quality standards established by EOEL.

H.B. 853

Because we envision the delivery of Program services through partnerships with the private programs, which have been the mainstay providers for our families and indicate available capacity, and because of explicit educational goals and standards, I have proposed an amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, under the advice of the Attorney General, to allow EOEL to contract with private early childhood education programs. If approved by the Legislature, the Constitutional amendment would appear on the 2014 election ballot to be ratified by voters.

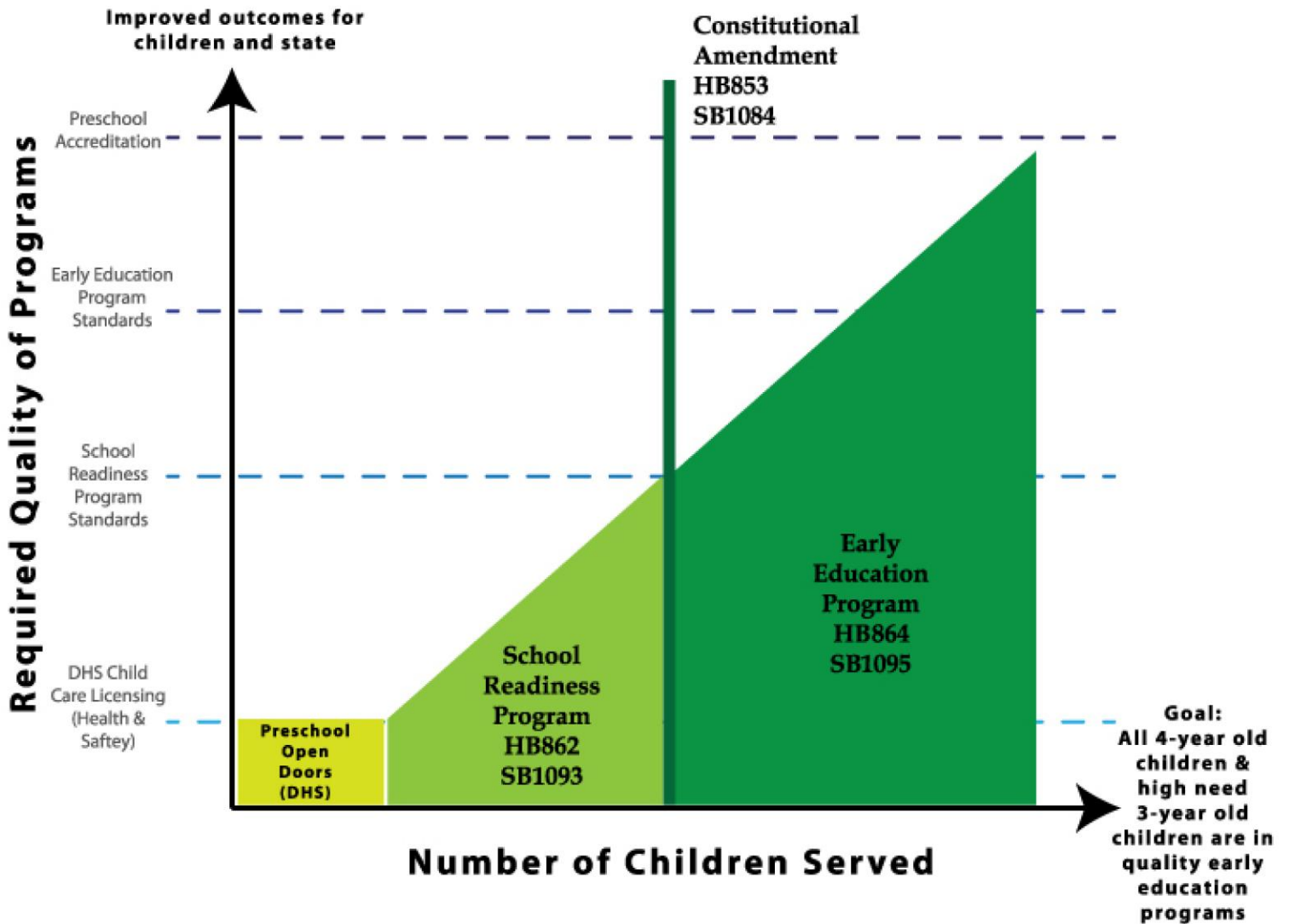
Only when voters ratify the Constitutional amendment will we be able to implement the high-quality early childhood education program described in H.B. 864. The Constitutional amendment and H.B. 864 will help the State meet its goal of providing a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii’s children and help our children demonstrate sustained success in school and beyond.

H.B. 862 immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. H.B. 864 expands on this investment with higher standards and by serving more children. H.B. 853 is necessary to implement the early childhood education program that will help us achieve the outcomes we want for our children.

Attached are further details about the Programs and a table that explains how all three bills would work together to improve outcomes for children and the state.

By investing in our children, we are investing in our future as well as theirs. Our approach is ambitious but pragmatic.

This is my highest priority. I urge you to support these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My staff and Terry Lock, director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, are here to answer any questions you may have.



Differences Between the School Readiness Program and Early Childhood Education Program

- The School Readiness Program (H.B. 862):
 - Will help a child prepare to learn by focusing more on socialization skills.
 - Services can only be delivered through DHS-licensed child care providers and DOE.
 - What we can implement *now* without a Constitutional amendment. Immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. Provides services to the gap group resulting from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age.
 - Establishes the foundation/infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.

- The Early Childhood Education Program (H.B. 864):
 - The large, full-scale program that will help a child with social-emotional development but also intellectual development. Incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment, and teacher quality. Tied to educational outcomes.
 - Only under this program will we be able to hold participating providers accountable for educational outcomes, which is what is needed to help us achieve the outcomes we want for children.
 - Because the focus is on education, the risk of it being challenged under the Constitution is high – there has been litigation in the past.



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

Date: 02/01/2013

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0853 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Purpose of Bill: Proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law, to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports early childhood education programs. The Department recognizes the importance of establishing a quality early learning system to support all children toward a college- and career-ready future in Hawaii.



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

February 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 853 - PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X,
SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT
THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Hearing: Friday, February 1, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 853 is to propose an amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill. Many of the families of late-born children affected by the change in kindergarten entry age in the 2014-2015 school year will be forced to find child care arrangements for an additional year. Without the implementation of a statewide early childhood education program, these displaced children may not attend a high-quality early education program in this extra year prior to kindergarten entry and may not be prepared with the skills necessary to be successful

learners when they enter kindergarten. Many working families are not able to afford the cost of tuition at a high-quality early education program as they struggle to make ends meet in Hawaii, one of the highest cost of living states in the nation.

In order to establish an early learning system in Hawaii and implement the proposed statewide early childhood education program, this Constitutional Amendment is necessary.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Education

H.B.853 PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
February 01, 2013

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this bill provided that its passage does not
2 replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Biennium Budget.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to propose an amendment to the Hawaii
5 State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education
6 programs which will help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system. With the
7 passage of this measure, the voters will decide if public funds should be appropriated for the support of
8 private early childhood education programs to provide an early learning system for the children of
9 Hawaii. The Department of Health promotes family and community well-being and family choice in
10 selecting an array of services to best meet the needs of their children. We look forward to working with
11 the Executive Office on Early Learning in developing a public-private early learning system for children
12 of Hawaii.
- 13 Thankyou for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



**THE HONORABLE ROY TAKUMI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawai`i**

February 1, 2013

RE: H.B. 853; PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

RE: H.B. 862; RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS.

RE: H.B. 864; RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno and members of the House Committee on Education, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 853, H.B. 862, and H.B. 864.

H.B. 853, H.B. 862, and H.B. 864 establish public early childhood education programs and supports private early childhood education programs as well.

While the Department's primary role is to prosecute juvenile and criminal cases within the justice system, our overarching focus is on public safety for the community, and that starts with prevention and education. As such, the Department strongly supports the development and implementation of early childhood education programs in Hawaii.

According to the HighScope Perry Preschool study that was conducted over 4 decades by the late David P. Weikart, founder of the HighScope Educational Research Foundation; Larry Schweinhart, HighScope's current president; and their colleagues, the effects of high-quality early care and education on low-income three- and four-year-olds shows that adults at age 40 who participated in a preschool program in their early years have higher earnings, are more likely to hold a job, have committed fewer crimes, and are more likely to have graduated from high school. Overall, the study documented a return to society of more than \$16 for every tax dollar invested in the early care and education program.

One of the reviewers of the study, Nobel-Prize-winning University of Chicago economist James J. Heckman, said, "This report substantially bolsters the case for early interventions in disadvantaged populations. More than 35 years after they received an enriched preschool program, the Perry Preschool participants achieve much greater success in social and economic life than their counterparts who are randomly denied treatment."

Among the study's major findings in the crime prevention area are:

- The group who received high-quality early education had significantly fewer arrests than the non-program group (36% vs. 55% arrested five times or more); and
- Significantly fewer members of the group who received high-quality early care than the non-program group were ever arrested for violent crimes (32% vs. 48%), property crimes (36% vs. 58%), or drug crimes (14% vs. 34%).

For the foregoing reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports H.B. 853, H.B. 862, and H.B. 864. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm

by
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean
Dr, Joe Peters

HB 853
Proposing an amendment to Article X, Section 1
To permit appropriations of public fund for early childhood education

Chairperson Takumi and members of the Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 853** to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs.

The Education Division at Chaminade University of Honolulu is in full **support of HB 853** to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs. In looking at the issue of capacity and expertise, private programs have a long history of providing quality learning environments with highly-skilled teachers. These teachers are trained specifically for the early learning classroom and the curriculum is developmentally appropriate to meet the diverse needs of the children they serve.

It is important to note that for every \$1 invested today there will be \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii. Additionally, we also support the following joint position statement of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Peters".

TEACHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TECC)

POSITION STATEMENT ON

COMMITTING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

It is time for the State of Hawai‘i to commit funding for early childhood education. Hawai‘i is one of only 11 states without state-funded preschool. Yet the research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. A recent study in Hawai‘i found that every \$1 invested in early education returns \$4.20 in future social program savings. We have spent years studying the issues. We know what the right thing to do is. Now is the time to do it.

The newly established Executive Office of Early Learning in the Governor’s Office is recommending a course for early learning that is revolutionary. The proposed Early Learning Program has a developmentally appropriate focus on the whole child, bringing education, social services, and health together to increase child success.

Unlike older children or adults, young children need comprehensive, multi-dimensional services that exist on a continuum—from birth to at least 8 years of age—so that they can accomplish the tasks of development and learning important in the early years and are fully prepared for further learning in elementary, middle and high schools, postsecondary education and beyond.

The TECC supports the overarching principles of the proposed program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children, regardless of socio-economic status, race or geographic location. Families must be engaged in the learning of their keiki and participate in the financing of the program; the plan must embrace public and private providers.

Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing and licensing of early childhood professionals in a state-supported preschool system. We firmly believe that standards for professionals should remain high and that every child deserves a high-quality early learning setting. TECC members have programs in place and the capacity to address emerging State needs as the Legislature and institutions commit to universal early childhood education. Moreover, we support the Program’s plan to provide joint professional development and assistance to early childhood providers and educators in this public-private partnership.

We all need to pull together and support early education for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki. We ask that this year’s legislature support early childhood education by funding preschool for all four-year-olds beginning in 2014.

About the TECC

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is a statewide advisory committee created in HRS 304A-1202. Its membership consists of representatives of every institution of higher education that prepares teachers for the State's schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. In its monthly meeting, the TECC identifies, studies, acts, and makes recommendations on matters of education of common interest to the Hawai'i State Department of Education.



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

Wil Okabe
President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President

Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2103

RE: H.B. 853 – PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE
HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC
FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Person Testifying: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is **opposed to HB 853**, to use public taxpayer funds for private early childhood education.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500+ public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association (NEA), the HSTA affirms its strong commitments to promoting the cause of public education, preserving the principle of separation of church and state, protecting the economic security of public education employees, and lastly achieving racial integration in the public schools and preventing desegregation.

As adopted by the NEA 2000 Representative Assembly consistent with these commitments, NEA and HSTA is opposed to any privatization or subcontracting program that:

1. Has the potential to reduce the resources that otherwise would be available to achieve and/or maintain the system of quality public education or the potential to otherwise negatively impact public education.
2. Allows public funds to be used for religious education or other religious purposes, or otherwise weakens the wall of separation between church and state.
3. Places the economic security of public education employees at risk without regard to individual job performance so that the services in question can be performed by public sector employees.
4. Has the purpose or effect of causing or maintaining racial segregation in the public schools.

As such, HSTA is in **opposition** for the State to use public funds to benefit private early childhood education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh Legislature, 2013
State of Hawai'i

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

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2013

TIME: 8:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: HOUSE BILL 853, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAI'I STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 853. Kamehameha Schools supports the efforts of the legislature to enhance the early education opportunities across the state and would like to offer testimony in support of HB 853.

HB 853 proposes an amendment to the Hawai'i State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs. The private sector has largely supported Hawai'i's early childhood education efforts; we humbly ask for continued support through the funding mechanism outlined in HB 853 to complement private funding of early education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Ke Ali' 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 statewide. In 2004, the Community-Based Early Childhood Education Division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani family-based 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' Community-Based 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.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Legislature, the Department of Education and other public and private stakeholders in the community for the benefit of the children of Hawai'i.

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Phone 808.681.3500
Fax 808.681.5280
Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org
www.childandfamilyservice.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Inouye
CHAIR

Robert Fujioka
PAST CHAIR

Richard Wacker
FIRST VICE CHAIR

Michele Saito
SECOND VICE CHAIR

Stanley Hong
SECRETARY

Christine Camp
TREASURER

Howard S. Garval
PRESIDENT & CEO

Stephanie Ackerman

Carol Ai May

John L. Arizumi

Justine Balauro

Kyle Chock

George Ehara

Micki Evslin

Russell Figueiroa

John Geppert

David Haverly

Dwight Kealoha

Anton Krucky

Frances Lui-Kwan

Lori Lum

Julie Mandanas

Alika Mau

Steve Metter

Tony Mizuno

Terri Ann Motosue

Maurice Myers

Gina Pohlalabel

Joanie Shibuya

Jonathan Steiner

Earl Stoner

Rann Watumull

Colleen Wong

Mark Yamakawa

ACCREDITATION

Council on Accreditation

AFFILIATIONS

Alliance for Children

And Families

International Forum for

Child Welfare

Hawaii Island

United Way

Maui United Way

Kauai United Way

Testimony on HB853 **Constitutional Amendment**

House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013, State Capitol, Room 329, 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Takumi and Vice-Chair Ono and Committee members,

I am Howard S. Garval, President and Chief Executive Officer of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest human services nonprofit organization whose mission is **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children.**

I am writing in support of HB853 that proposes a constitutional amendment which is necessary because currently the Hawaii State Constitution does not allow for benefits to be provided to private schools for educational purposes. The Attorney General has advised that a Constitutional Amendment would be needed so that the private sector, where capacity and expertise lie, can deliver services that incorporate higher-quality, education-focused standards to produce the successful outcomes for our keiki. Legislature approval is needed for this amendment to the Constitution that could then ensure that it would appear on the 2014 election ballot for ratification by voters. This ratification is needed to implement the high-quality early education program proposed in HB864 and SB1095. This focus on quality and outcomes is essential to establish a solid foundation for success for our keiki in school and beyond.

The best investment we can make in our community is on the front end; i.e. from birth to five so that children enter school safe, healthy and ready to learn. The Governor's appointment of an Early Childhood Coordinator was an important step in this direction and establishing an Executive Office on Early Learning was also an important next step that will ensure that services for young children are coordinated across state departments.

The science of brain development and the economic ROI of \$4.20 return for every \$1 invested in early childhood are well documented. Hawaii is one of only 11 states without a state funded pre-school. It is time that Hawaii becomes a leader in taking care of our keiki and ensuring that they get off to the right start being safe, healthy and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. This bill along with other measures proposed in this legislative session will help Hawaii get there.

I urge your support of this legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,
Howard S. Garval, President & CEO
Child & Family Service

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children





February 1, 2013

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

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Comments on HB 853: Proposing An Amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to Permit the Appropriation of Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education.

The Good Beginnings Alliance offers the following comments regarding HB 853, Proposing An Amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to Permit the Appropriation of Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education. We appreciate and acknowledge the need for this particular measure in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with the early childhood education plan as directed in HB 864, and more completely in the EOEL's Blueprint of the Early Learning Program.

As such, we have no objections to the measure should the Senate find it appropriate to proceed in this manner. Our interest is in supporting and facilitating implementation of an early learning program that will deliver needed assistance to families to access the high quality early learning program of their choice in the soonest and safest way possible; most urgently for those families of four-year-olds, some of whom are late born and will no longer have access to the state's Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-15 school year.

We therefore encourage the Committees to also consider, if necessary, additional ways in which existing state programs and Departments could be employed to carry out the EOEL's mission to provide high quality school readiness programming to Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children should a constitutional amendment not be approved by registered voters in 2016.

As we all know, Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provide no significant state funding for early childhood education. This coupled with nearly 43% of our students not having received preschool upon entering Kindergarten means that our Department of Education (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of school readiness programming. We cannot, as a state, continue on this path if we hope to produce the workforce that will lead us into the ever more competitive, and complex, 21st century.

GBA looks forward to the discussion around this and related measures as the legislative session proceeds. This measure, if approved, would provide another mechanism for helping the EOEL implement the early childhood education program Hawaii requires. Thank you for considering our comments regarding HB 853.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Zysman', with a stylized, flowing script.

Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Written Testimony
presented before the
House Committee on Education
February 1, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Conf. Room 309

by
Donald B. Young

RE: HB 853 Proposed Amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution
HB 862 Relating to School Readiness
HB 864 Relating to Early Childhood Education

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

My name is Donald Young. I am currently Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and chair your Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC). On behalf of the TECC, I am submitting testimony in general support of HB 853, HB 862, and HB 864. Collectively, these bills address critical needs in early learning in the State.

The TECC members, representing the following education organizations, unanimously support the position statement below. TECC members include the

Hawai'i State Department of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education
University of Hawai'i West Oahu Division of Education
University of Hawai'i Hilo Department of Education
University of Hawai'i Hilo Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education
University of Hawai'i Honolulu Community College Early Childhood Education
University of Hawai'i Leeward Community College AAT Program
Brigham Young University School of Education
Chaminade University Education Division
Hawai'i Pacific University School of Education
Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board
Teach for America
University of Phoenix College of Education
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

**TEACHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TECC)
POSITION STATEMENT ON
COMMITTING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

It is time for the State of Hawai‘i to commit funding for early childhood education. Hawai‘i is one of only 11 states without state-funded preschool. Yet the research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. A recent study in Hawai‘i found that every \$1 invested in early education returns \$4.20 in future social program savings. We have spent years studying the issues. We know what the right thing to do is. Now is the time to do it.

The newly established Executive Office of Early Learning in the Governor’s Office is recommending a course for early learning that is revolutionary. The proposed Early Learning Program has a developmentally appropriate focus on the whole child, bringing education, social services, and health together to increase child success. Unlike older children or adults, young children need comprehensive, multi-dimensional services that exist on a continuum—from birth to at least 8 years of age—so that they can accomplish the tasks of development and learning important in the early years and are fully prepared for further learning in elementary, middle and high schools, postsecondary education and beyond.

The TECC supports the overarching principles of the proposed program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children, regardless of socio-economic status, race or geographic location. Families must be engaged in the learning of their keiki and participate in the financing of the program; the plan must embrace public and private providers.

Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing and licensing of early childhood professionals in a state-supported preschool system. We firmly believe that standards for professionals should remain high and that every child deserves a high-quality early learning setting. TECC members have programs in place and the capacity to address emerging State needs as the Legislature and institutions commit to universal early childhood education. Moreover, we support the Program’s plan to provide joint professional development and assistance to early childhood providers and educators in this public-private partnership.

We all need to pull together and support early education for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki. We ask that this year’s legislature support early childhood education by funding preschool for all four-year-olds beginning in 2014.

About the TECC

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is a statewide advisory committee created in HRS 304A-1202. Its membership consists of representatives of

every institution of higher education that prepares teachers for the State's schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. In its monthly meeting, the TECC identifies, studies, acts, and makes recommendations on matters of education of common interest to the Hawai'i State Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
1177 Alakea Street · B-100 · Honolulu · HI · 96813
TEL: (808) 586-5363 · TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 · FAX: (808) 586-5366

January 31, 2013

Senator Takumi
Chair of the Education and Human Services – State Capitol

RE: HB853 – RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS
PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION
TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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

The Community Children's Councils (CCCs) **strongly supports** HB853, which allows public funds to be used for the support or benefit of private childhood education programs.

The CCCs have continuously maintained that *all* children benefit from early intervention. This is especially true in the case with children who have special needs. Research has repeatedly shown that with early intervention the rates of children who are able to mainstream into Kindergarten are much higher than those who did not receive services. The Academy of Pediatric recommends diagnostic tools that can be used to diagnose children early to receive early intervention.

Without the support of public funding, the private sector may not be equipped to handle the incoming overflow of pre-school aged children. They may be turned away and not receive services or if accepted the children might not receive quality care. In both situations the results will be dire and when they enter Kindergarten well below their counterparts resulting in increased time to assimilate to the environment and longer time to learn the requisite skills. This may also impact their socialization and behavioral objectives.

The 17 CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

Thank you for considering our testimony,
Tom Smith, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)



1806 South King Street, Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | Ph: (808) 942-4708 | haeyc@hawaiieyc.org

Rep. Roy Takumi, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013

Subject: HB 853, Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to Permit the Appropriation of Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education Programs

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports HB 853. This is a new era for young keiki and their 'ohana in Hawai'i, and this bill and its subsequent actions will help build the infrastructure of early childhood education in Hawai'i.

HAEYC is advocating for high quality programs/schools being ready for all children (which includes well-prepared, adequately compensated teachers), addressing the whole child (which includes physical and mental health as well as the child's family), and public-private partnerships to provide a variety of programs that will meet the variety of needs. Some families have the resources to provide stimulating, healthy experiences for their young children. Others need varying levels of assistance to do this.

We acknowledge 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.

HAEYC would like to continue to be a positive contributor to ongoing policy conversations about Hawaii's children. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you with more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at (808) 942-4708 or haeyc@hawaiieyc.org.

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC



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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 853, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

**Friday, February 1, 2013, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of HB 853, proposing an amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, Hawaii is among eleven states lacking a state-funded pre-kindergarten program. In 2014, the state's junior kindergarten program will be eliminated, leaving approximately 5,100 late-born four-year-olds without a public preschool option. Parents of these children will be forced to turn to the private education marketplace to find pre-kindergarten services for their children, at an average cost of \$8,640 per year (or \$720 per month).

According to the Good Beginnings Alliance, the average statewide monthly preschool cost amounts to \$13,680,000. GBA has also put together a sliding funding scale estimating how much money would be needed annually for state-supported 12-month preschool programs for varying percentages of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten population. Their estimates show that 1,200 children (6.3 percent) can be covered at a cost of \$10,368,000; 5,000 (26.3 percent) at a cost of \$43,200,000; 7,500 (39.4 percent) at a cost of \$64,800,000; and 10,000 (52.6 percent) at a cost of \$86,400,000. Notably, in a 2011 report on income self-sufficiency in Hawaii, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism estimated that for parents to afford licensed care for one child, as well as before- and after-school care for a school-aged child, a Honolulu family of four must earn \$61,900 annually. A single working parent, by comparison, would need to earn

\$56,400 per year. Sadly, DBEDT estimates that 27 percent and 77 percent of such families, respectively, fall below the income thresholds necessary for “self-sufficiency.”

Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Following the Governor's lead, we want to highlight that, as of 2011, 42 percent of Hawaii's public school keiki did not attend any form of preschool prior to enrollment in formal education, despite the approximately 420 percent return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay and high-stakes evaluations for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

That said, we urge lawmakers to be vigilant in ensuring that this amendment is not utilized as a predicate for future implementation of private school voucher programs. In the past and in other states, advocates for school vouchers have seized upon any pertinent fiscal reform regarding education to forward their cause, falsely arguing that public funding for any private educational programming, should such programs be deemed successful by future studies, evinces the likely success of educational privatization writ large. We feel that school vouchers would undermine our public education system, the backbone of Hawaii's and the United States' democratic practices, potentially leading to educational discrimination, segregation, and scholastic inequalities that both mirror and exacerbate the socioeconomic disparity of our society.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 1, 2013

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Cassandra Bennett
Dr. Tammy Bopp
Ms. Jyo Bridgewater
Dr. Robert Campbell
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Eleanor MacDonald
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Zaidarene Place
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Melissa Rosen
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. Tom Smith
Mr. Mike Tamahaha
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Ms. Cari White

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 853 - PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X,
SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO
PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR
PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** HB 853. We understand that this constitutional amendment is necessary to allow the State to expand the capacity of private preschools to serve preschool students, including students displaced by the repeal of Junior Kindergarten.

SEAC believes it is critically important for the Legislature to approve this amendment as a necessary step to pave the way for a high quality Early Childhood Education Program embracing research-based, developmentally appropriate and inclusive practices. If approved, SEAC will reach out to its stakeholder groups to help educate the public. We will emphasize the necessity of committing to better educational outcomes for young children as a stronger foundation for academic success in subsequent grades.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



February 1, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 853 – Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution to Permit the Appropriation of Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education Programs

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

My name is Robert Witt and I am 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 supports HB853 which proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law, to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

Research shows that children who participate in early childhood education programs are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Additionally, these programs have the potential to alter at-risk children's lifetime trajectories for success. High quality early childhood education programs have immediate and long term benefits not only for the children, but also for the societies in which they live.

The Executive Office on Early Learning has developed a blueprint for a statewide early childhood education program which will ensure that our children enter kindergarten having had a quality preschool experience. This will eliminate the possible lack of school entry requirements or negative school success. This will particularly be advantageous for at-risk children, who are particularly affected by the lack of ability and access to quality early learning programs. However, for the "blueprint" to succeed, partnerships with the private sector must be forged in order to ensure high quality standards and meet capacity needs. Furthermore, the Attorney General indicates that we need a Constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be given to private early education programs. Thus, we urge you to approve this bill which would result in an amendment appearing on the 2014 election ballot to be ratified by state voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Support for HB853

As a longtime early childhood educator on Maui, I am in support of making the changes needed to the state's Constitution, which would allow the state to provide funding for educational purposes to private schools and programs. The success of the envisioned Early Childhood Education Program lies in its implementation through both the public and private sectors. It's essential that public funding for educating our young children be delivered in a way that provides for high quality programs in a mixture of settings.

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

From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

Subject: **HB 853: Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution To Permit The Appropriation Of Public Funds For Private Early Childhood Education Programs.**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of HB 853, proposing an amendment to Article X, Section I of the State Constitution.** This bill will allow a state-funded voluntary early education program to be implemented by private early childhood education programs.

By proposing an early childhood program which utilizes both Department of Education (DOE) sites and private preschool providers, the connection to DOE will be supported while also utilizing the expertise and experience of community wide preschools.

This presents an opportunity to build upon Hawaii's strong P-3 pilot funded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation. The positive linkages among parents, early childhood programs, and K-3 programs can systemically enhance Hawaii's educational pipeline.

The 39 states who already publically fund early childhood programs utilize private early education programs for implementation. This approach is economically sensible as it utilizes the infrastructure developed over decades of preschool education.

Hawaii boasts a strong cohort of early education programs. Rather than construct new programs, it is wise and cost-saving to contract with already present programs. These programs will be required to follow a set of program standards. Child outcomes will be monitored and reported to ensure quality and efficacy of the program.

I urge you to allow this bill to go forward. The people of Hawaii deserve the opportunity to speak up for their keiki.

Contact Information: lizchun@hawaii.rr.com