



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

House Committee on Judiciary
February 12, 2013
2:05 p.m., Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. I am here today to speak in **strong support of House Bill 853**.

I believe it is necessary to:

- Deliver early learning services through partnerships with private programs. They have been the mainstay providers for our families and indicate available capacity.
- Incorporate explicit educational goals and standards. This will result in the higher-quality services that produce the child outcomes needed to make a difference.

The Attorney General has advised us that a Constitutional amendment is necessary to allow the Executive Office on Early Learning to contract with private early childhood education programs and enable Hawaii to continue moving toward a high-quality early learning system.

H.B. 853 was introduced as part of my legislative package, and one of three specific to the development of a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children. The remaining two bills provide for the phases – the School Readiness Program and Early Childhood Education Program. The School Readiness Program establishes the infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.

The ConAm is a vital legal maneuver to align State law with our ability to implement the high-quality early childhood education program that will help us achieve the outcomes we need to make a difference for our keiki and our state.

This is my highest priority. I urge you to support H.B. 853. 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.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 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.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 **TIME:** 2:05 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or
Gary S. Sukanuma, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill, which is necessary to advance the Governor's initiative for a statewide early childhood education program, a program that the Department also supports.

The early childhood education program under H.B. No. 864 is designed to contract with both public and private providers in order to expand the number of children who will have a high quality early childhood education experience prior to entering kindergarten.

Article X, section 1, of the Hawaii Constitution currently prohibits the appropriation of public funds for the support or benefit of private educational institutions. This bill seeks to amend article X, section 1, of the Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs. This amendment is necessary to enable the State to contract with interested and qualified private providers needed for the early childhood education program.



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

Date: 02/12/2013

Committee: House Judiciary

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 PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TED SAKAI
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON 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

by
Ted Sakai, Interim Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

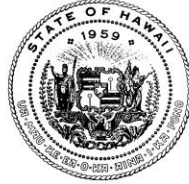
Tuesday, February 12, 2013; 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 325

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in **support** of the Governor's Initiative proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs to advance early learning initiatives for the children of Hawaii.

PSD acknowledges that quality early learning development programs provide an invaluable assistance to families in establishing a solid foundation for educational success and career development that will contribute to the future of Hawaii's flourishing community. On the other hand, the lack of this foundation is associated with negative indicators, such as criminality and incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Judiciary

**H.B. 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**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
February 12, 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.



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

February 12, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

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: Tuesday, February 12, 2013; 2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 325, 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.

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 KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
Regular Session of 2013
State of Hawai'i**

February 12, 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. 864; RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu ("Department") submits the following testimony in support of H.B. 853 and H.B. 864.

H.B. 853 and H.B. 864 establishes 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 and H.B. 864. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ 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 JUDICIARY

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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

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

To The Honorable Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is **opposed to HB 864 and HB 853** to use public taxpayer funds to pay 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 are 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.

HSTA supports early childhood programs, but is strongly **opposed** to a constitutional amendment to permit the State to use public funds to benefit private early childhood education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 12, 2013
2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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 Rhoads, Vice Chair Har 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. Studies demonstrate that such programs are especially effective for at-risk children. 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 for Early Learning (EOEL) 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 achieve reality, partnerships with the private sector must be forged in order to ensure high quality standards and meet capacity needs. Thus, it is important to have a statewide early childhood education program and we strongly urge you to pass HB853.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

TO: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Sharon Har, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

TIME: 2:05 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 325
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: 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

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, 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 Hawai'i'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.



Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 2:05 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 Rhoads and members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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.



February 11, 2013

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Testimony in **support of HB 853**: Proposing and 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 in **support of HB 864 HD1**: Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of HB 864 HD1, Relating to Early Childhood Education. This measure will establish the Early Childhood Education Program to prepare young children for school and provide them with access to high-quality early childhood education that addresses their physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development. This measure is dependent upon the ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment permitting public funds for private early childhood education programs (HB 853) which we also support.

Last year the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, legislation creating the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL)(Act 178; 2012). This measure also called for the termination of the existing Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-2015 school year; a pre-Kindergarten program for late-born children administered by the Department of Education. The elimination of this program could affect over 5,200 four-year-olds statewide. HB 864 HD1 provides a framework for the high quality early childhood education program that will take the place of Junior Kindergarten, and will eventually expand to provide statewide assistance to all families w/ four-year-olds who choose to send their children to a school readiness program.

HB 864 HD1 seeks to establish a high quality early childhood education program in several ways that we see as critical, including:

- Ensuring parent choice in selecting a school readiness program that best serves the child.
- Investing in our existing, and future, early learning/school readiness providers.
- Prioritizing both underserved and at-risk children.
- Providing assistance for middle-income, 'gap group', families of four-year-olds.
- Tasking the EOEL with developing and adopting standards for participating programs that will ensure qualified instruction and data collection.

GBA supports the efforts being made by stakeholders to ensure that a range of providers are allowed to participate in the program, including center-based, school-based, family-child interaction learning programs, and family child care homes. By ensuring this breadth of service, we can guarantee service to a greater number of families across our state. Including different types of providers can also address the need to increase the capacity that can be expected with the implementation of the new school readiness program.

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. By investing in our four-year-olds early, we help save our DOE system, and teachers, time and money.

Our state currently spends roughly \$617,043,027 on general education instruction and \$437,675,986 on special education instruction. Recent studies of school readiness programs in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Utah, to name a few, have demonstrated significant savings to public education from identifying and ameliorating low- to moderate special education cases. Ensuring our youngest students are ready to hit the ground running when they enter Kindergarten and first grade means we can further maximize our resources devoted to our public education system.

Similar to HB 862, we are encouraged by this measure's focus on high quality standards and data collection. These are critical components for ensuring the state can measure the success of the early learning program. However, we encourage the Legislature and the EOEL to take a strong look at the standards required for providers whom the EOEL would potentially contract with to ensure such criteria will not adversely exclude existing high quality programs. In addition, we encourage the EOEL to provide methods of incentivizing, or providing, appropriate workforce development opportunities for professionals currently in, or considering moving into, the field of early childhood education.

We also see the critical mass of public and private support focused on this program like never before. Members of the business, philanthropic, labor, and education community have demonstrated a commitment to working together to build an early learning system that will place our keiki at the same level (or above) as their colleagues on the mainland.

GBA supports HB 853 and HB 864 HD1 as first steps toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality early childhood education program that will serve all of Hawaii's four-year-old children.



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 Judiciary
Hon. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Hon. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

Honorable Chair Rhoads 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 the intent of, but with comments for 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. We also encourage your committee to consider the amending the implementation legislation that accompanies this bill to restrict public funds to secular learning programs, thereby ensuring that funds appropriated to early childhood education as a result of the proposed amendment do not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify with comments for this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance

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 the Judiciary

Tuesday, February 12, 2013, State Capitol, Room 3259, 2:05 p.m.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har 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





Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 325

RE: 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 BILL 853

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. We support House Bill 853 that 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.

We fully support the creation within the early learning system an early childhood education program. The members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable employ thousands of graduates of Hawaii's public school system, and helping children, beginning at an early age is the key to making them successful citizens in our businesses and in our community. Our ability to compete in a global economy starts with employees who have been provided the tools to do so and it all begins at a very early age.

We also believe strongly that focusing on early childhood is critical because development of the architecture of the brain takes place by age five. We need to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. By the time children enter kindergarten, elementary school and high school we are addressing problems and no longer preventing them.

As business people our members understand the high return on investing in children under the age of five which has been well documented nationally and locally. 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 return is calculated from less spending on special education, grade retention, and future social services –such as incarceration - plus a more productive, higher paid workforce contributing positively to the state economy.

More importantly, our members are concerned about their employees and their families. They believe that every child should be given the opportunity to succeed and success is easier to create with early childhood programs that provide them with a quality education.

We strongly support the public/private delivery system contemplated by the legislation. As previous People's Pulse polls have shown, over 80% of Hawaii's residents believe in the importance of funding of early learning. We understand that the Constitutional Amendment is necessary to allow for a quality public/private early childhood education delivery system that would incorporate higher-quality, education focused standards to make a difference in the lives of our young children. We therefore believe it is critical that this bill go forward and allow the voters to express themselves and their support for our children.

We believe that we are at a critical juncture for our youngest of children. Many of our members themselves are part of the Be My Voice Campaign and the Hawaii Business Roundtable fully supports the Be My Voice Campaign which will help to provide a stronger future for our keikis.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify and we look forward to joining your efforts to improve the lives of our children.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205 Kane'ohe, HI 96744
Tel/Fax (808) 247-7942
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
e-mail Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com



Unity, Equality, Aloha for All

To: JUD
From: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
Re: HB853 and HB864
Date: February 8, 2013

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Please amend this legislation to include the following concept at an appropriate place:

No moneys from the State of Hawaii shall be paid or donated to any private school or institution which excludes children or employees on account of race, religion, gender, or national origin; or which gives preference in admissions based on any of the aforementioned criteria.



Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Judiciary
February 12, 2013 at 2:05 pm
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

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 Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Members of the Committee:

HB 853 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 to provide a state-funded early learning system for the keiki of Hawaii, prior to entering kindergarten.

Hawaii P-20 supports this bill. In order for the State to create a high-quality early learning system, it must utilize existing resources and services already delivered through private educational programs across the state. Our keiki must have pre-kindergarten learning experiences that adequately prepare them for their next stage of education. However, the Office of the Attorney General has opined that a Constitutional amendment is necessary to permit the use of public funds for private education programs. Without this amendment, we will not be able to reach a significant percentage of the population that needs every chance of success in school.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 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@hawaiiyec.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

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 2:05 pm
Conference Room 325

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 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

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 6:55 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: a1367cc6@opayq.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB853

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy	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.

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

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 5:19 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: tgeorge@castlefoundation.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM

HB853

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terrence George	Harold K.L. Castle Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments: I write in strong support of HB853. This bill would provide the necessary constitutional authority to implement a high-quality, public-private system of early childhood education for all four-year-olds in Hawaii. Currently, the Hawaii State Constitution does not allow for benefits to be provided to private schools for educational purposes. However, as we build a robust preschool system for all keiki, especially for those whose parents face financial barriers, it makes sense for public funds to be provided to private early childhood education programs, where capacity and expertise lie. As you may know, the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation has invested in a variety of measures to eliminate the achievement gap in Hawaii, primarily through the improvement of instructional leadership in our schools. However, closing this gap is not achievable unless the state makes it possible for all children to enjoy quality preschool. Thank you.

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

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

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 7:17 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: jedill@pidfoundation.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB853 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB853

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for JUD on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan E. Dill	Partners In Development Foundation	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.

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