



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony of Governor Neil Abercrombie
In **Support** of
H.B. 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education

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 864**.

H.B. 864 is the enabling legislation for the Constitutional amendment proposed in H.B. 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.

This measure 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. In total, the three bills provide for the phases of this development – the School Readiness Program (the first phase) and Early Childhood Education Program (the second phase). Following is a summary.

The School Readiness Program (H.B. 862):

- What can be implemented now, without a ConAm.
- 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.
- Will help a child prepare to learn by focusing more on socialization skills.
- Services can only be delivered through DHS-licensed and license-exempt child care providers and DOE. Providers must also meet the qualifying criteria (above child care) established by EOEL.
- Establishes the foundation/infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.
- Anticipated start date: Fall 2014.

The Early Childhood Education Program (H.B. 864):

- The large, full-scale program that can be implemented only with a ConAm.
- Serves more children.
- Will help a child with social-emotional development but also intellectual development. Incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment, and teacher quality that can be aligned with 100% of the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards. Tied to educational outcomes. Focuses on the “whole” child; still developmentally appropriate.
- 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 and our state.
- Because the focus is on education, the risk of it being challenged under the Constitution is high – there has been litigation in the past.
- Anticipated start date (contingent upon passage of ConAm): Fall 2016.

The Attorney General has advised EOEL that to implement the high-quality early childhood education program described in H.B. 864, the Constitutional amendment is needed. Both measures 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.

I would like to note that the most urgent matter is still the need to provide services for the thousands of late-born children who will not be able to enter kindergarten in 2014.

Therefore, I strongly support the establishment of the School Readiness Program (H.B. 862) as well as the ConAm and Early Childhood Education Program outlined in this bill.

This is my highest priority. I urge you to support H.B. 864. 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. 864, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

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.

This bill seeks to establish a statewide early childhood education program for all children in the State. This investment will not only help children to realize their full potential, but will also benefit the communities in which they live. This bill is, however, contingent upon the passage and ratification of H.B. No. 853, which is a concurrently introduced bill to amend the Hawaii Constitution.

The early childhood education program 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. Thus, a separate bill to amend the Hawaii Constitution has been introduced to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs to enable the State to contract with interested private providers.

The Department of the Attorney General supports the Governor's initiative for the establishment of a statewide early childhood education program for all children in the State of Hawaii.



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 0864,HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 864,HD1. 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.

Hawaii's Early Childhood Program will offer children statewide access to quality early learning opportunities. The Department is poised to work with the Executive Office on Early Learning in their efforts to promote school readiness initiatives to prepare Hawaii's young children physically, cognitively, linguistically, socially, and emotionally the year before they enter public school kindergarten.

The Department also supports effective school readiness activities for incoming kindergarten students that do not adversely impact the fiscal priorities set forth in the Department's budget.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Judiciary
February 12, 2013 at 2:05 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, University of Hawai'i System

HB 864, HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 864, HD1 that establishes a statewide early childhood education program within the early learning system administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning. The program would prepare children for school; provide access to high-quality early childhood education; and align with K-12 standards to facilitate seamless educational experiences for children.

Given that numerous studies have shown the link between quality early childhood education, children's readiness to enter school, and subsequent school and adult outcomes, it is vitally important that early education address the multiples aspects of children's developmental needs and include standards and practices that are shown by research to be tied to better outcomes.

The University of Hawai'i recognizes that our own effectiveness as the state's public higher education system relies on the strength of the earliest foundations we establish for our youngest children. We therefore have been an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Boards, and have consistently supported the establishment of an early learning system in Hawai'i and the kind of early childhood education described in HB 864.

Thank you 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. 864, H.D. 1 - RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to implement, upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

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

The proposed statewide early childhood education program would provide services on a sliding fee scale to all eligible children, regardless of the family's income, and provide families and children access to high-quality early childhood education programs whose curricula will be aligned with the Department of Education's Common Core Standards. The statewide early childhood education program would include curricula that addresses children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development and provide families and children access to high-quality education programs with professional staff and optimal staff to child ratios; in addition, participating program would be provided with opportunities for support and resources to continuously improve their program standards and on-going opportunities for staff professional development.

The Executive Office on Early Learning plans to work with public and private partners in building capacity within the State's existing preschool programs. There are also plans being considered for the future to increase the number of preschool seats available through the expansion of the Pre-Plus program with more programs on Department of Education campuses.

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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 864, HD1
RELATING TO
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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 HB864, HD1, establishing the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System.

PSD acknowledges that by providing opportunities for quality early childhood education, children are more likely to achieve higher levels of educational attainment and grow into successful contributing members of the community as adults. 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. 0864, H.D.1, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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 to the Department of Health.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to implement a statewide early childhood
5 education program that will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning upon ratification
6 of the amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution whereby private schools will
7 be eligible to receive public funds for early childhood education. The intent of this program is to assist
8 families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children can graduate from high
9 school prepared for college and career. This legislation affirms the positive effects of high-quality early
10 childhood education on the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional outcomes of young
11 children. It also recognizes that if children are provided opportunities for early childhood education,
12 they are more likely to succeed and grow into healthy, capable and contributing adults. The Early
13 Learning Program is designed for three- and four-year old children, especially the underserved and at-
14 risk children. The Department of Health shares in this belief as it recognizes the importance serving all
15 children but especially those who are vulnerable based on the social determinants of health which are the

Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness

1 conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the
2 distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national and local levels. The social determinants
3 of health are mostly responsible for inequities and disparities which this Early Learning Program is
4 trying to address by providing an early childhood education program to families in support of their
5 children. The Department also considers the lifecourse approach where research documents the
6 important role early life events play in shaping an individual's health and education trajectory.

7 The DOH supports the Executive Office on Early Learning's Early Learning Program as it will
8 help efforts to improve the comprehensive early childhood system in Hawaii. We look forward to
9 working with the Executive Office on Early Learning to ensure that this is a program that supports
10 children and families throughout the state.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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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.



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 864 HD1
Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chairperson Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 864 HD 1** to establish an Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

The Education Division at Chaminade University of Honolulu is in full support of **HB 864 HD 1** to establish an Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system. A high-quality early learning program is important in developing the skills and attitudes that Hawaii children will need to be successful in school and in life.

As a member of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, we also support the following joint position statement.

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

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

RE: HB 864 HD 1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education

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 HB864 HD 1 which establishes an early childhood education program, administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning, to prepare children for school and provide access to high quality early childhood education. This program will serve children ages three to four years of age with a priority for four year old children.

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. Thus, it is important to have a statewide early childhood education program and we strongly urge you to pass HB864.

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 864, HD1, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 864, House Draft 1. 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 864, HD 1.

HB 864, HD 1, establishes the Early Childhood Education program within the Early Learning System. The program is effective upon the ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment permitting public funds for private early childhood education programs.

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.

Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938
Telephone (808) 536-1951
Fax (808) 543-2222
Website: www.auw.org



Aloha United Way

Cover Sheet

Testifying Agency: Aloha United Way
Norm Baker, Chief Operating Officer

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

Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 2:05 P.M.

Conference Room 325

HB 864, HD1 (HSCR199): Relating to Education: Testimony in Strong Support

Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938
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February 11, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 2:05 p.m.
Conference Room 325

Re: HB 864, HD1 (HSCR199) RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports HB 864, HD1 (HSCR199), which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

HB 864 is important because in an era of fiscal constraint, the State of Hawaii must use the collective impact of both public and private organizations to address the critical problem of preparing our keiki for school. Working as a community we can truly leverage the benefits of public-private partnerships.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 864, HD1 (HSCR 199).

Sincerely,



Norm Baker
Chief Operating Officer



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 864, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**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 IMUAlliance, 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 864, relating to early childhood education.

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 1,2000 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 the use of public funds for early childhood education programs 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 permit public funds only for 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. Put simply, we do not want to the state wrapped up in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to a program

that overstepped its constitutional bounds by using public funds to promote a specific religious viewpoint. Our requested amendment can be enacted by inserting the following language into page 3, lines 3-4 of the bill: “Include research-based, **secular**, developmentally appropriate practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children.”

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of, with comments for this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance



Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

2:05 p.m.

Conference Room 325

RE: Relating to Early Childhood Education – House Bill 864, HD1

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. In principle, we support House Bill 864, HD1, to implement, upon its ratification, of the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school, prepared for college and a career.

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, and its focus on quality. We question whether building a system without learning from and scaling the excellent early childhood educators in place already would not be financially feasible. We also support the legislation's focus on quality. Research shows that the measurable financial returns are produced only from investment in quality early childhood programs.

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

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



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Alliance for Children
And Families

International Forum for
Child Welfare

Hawaii Island
United Way

Maui United Way

Kauai United Way

Testimony on HB 864 **Establishment of the Early
Childhood Education Program**

House Committee on the Judiciary

Tuesday, February 12, 2013, State Capitol, Room 325, 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 HB 864 that establishes a pre-school system of both public (DOE) and private early childhood education programs that meet higher levels of quality and emphasize educational outcomes for children. 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 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 864, HD1: Relating to Early Childhood Education.

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

HB 864, HD 1 establishes the Early Childhood Education Program effective upon the ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment permitting public funds for private early childhood education programs.

Hawaii P-20 supports this bill. As an organization that works in partnership with the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Hawaii Department of Education and the University of Hawaii, Hawaii P-20 works to improve the educational pipeline and facilitates seamless educational experiences across systems. The research has shown that investing in early childhood education, especially that which is developmentally appropriate, leads to better educational, social and economic outcomes.

As proposed, the Early Childhood Education Program is essential to deliver high-quality education to young children who were previously unable to afford access to pre-kindergarten educational services. And, when children are not ready to learn by kindergarten, their chances at elementary, secondary and post-secondary success and completion are greatly diminished. Since studies predict that 65% of jobs in Hawaii in year 2018 will require at least some post-secondary education, Hawaii must prepare its children for success by investing in them early.

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 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports HB 864. This bill emphasizes that high quality programs are what make a difference for children in poverty and/or high-risk situations.

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

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.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 3:33 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: paul@mauicjc.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB864

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
Paul Tonnessen	Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui	Support	No

Comments:

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

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'Aha Pūnana Leo seeks amendments to state initiatives on (1) School Readiness and (2) Early Childhood Education Program

In this document, we seek to address specific amendments for the Early Childhood Education Program SB1095 and companion bill HB864.

<p>SB1095 & HB864 Establishes Early Childhood Education Program within Early Learning System</p>	<p>Amendments</p>	<p>Rationale</p>
<p>SECTION 2. Chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows: <u>"§302L- School readiness program. (a) There is established within the early learning system a school readiness program to be administered by the executive office on early learning. The school readiness program shall:</u> <u>(1) Prepare children for school;</u></p>	<p>(1) Prepare children for school through the medium of either of the two official languages of the state</p>	<p>Hawai'i Constitution Article XV Section 4. English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai'i, except that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions only as provided by law. 'Aha Pūnana Leo was established in 1983 with a vision, E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i_the Hawaiian language shall live. In 1983, there were less than 50 speakers of Hawaiian below the age of 18. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo established Pūnana Leo preschools where Hawaiian would be the medium of instruction. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the only Hawaiian medium statewide provider serving over 250 keiki year round at 11 centers, in full day programs on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i. Hawai'i is a national and international leader, and has the most successful model of endangered, indigenous language revitalization. These amendments clarify the distinct Hawaiian language school readiness needs of keiki to ensure the unique linguistic advantages of an education through the medium of Hawaiian are ensured.</p>
<p>(d) The program standards shall: <u>(1) Include research-based, developmentally appropriate practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children, such as one teacher with a bachelor's degree with twelve credits in early childhood</u></p>	<p>(1) Include research-based, developmentally appropriate practices that are distinct to language of instruction and that are associated with better educational outcomes for children, such as one teacher with a bachelor's</p>	<p>Language Matters. The National Academy of Sciences research on the Role of Language reveals that characteristics of a speaker's language influence the quantitative skills of the child. Languages also differ in important ways in the clarity and consistency reflected in actual number names. The study found that speakers of languages whose number names are</p>

<p>education or child development, curriculum aligned with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, and individual assessments of children based on all areas of childhood development and learning including cognitive, linguistic, social-emotional approaches to learning, health, and physical development; and</p>	<p>degree with twelve credits in early childhood education or child development, curriculum aligned with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, and individual assessments of children based on all areas of childhood development and learning including cognitive, linguistic, social-emotional approaches to learning, health, and physical development; and</p>	<p>patterned after Chinese are better able than speakers of English to represent numbers using base ten blocks and to perform other place value tasks. Hawaiian is like Chinese. In addition to the advantage in the way Hawaiian represents mathematical concepts, the role of language also influences the rate of early reading acquisition. Hawaiian language has its advantages in its syllabic system of early reading. These are advantages of learning through Hawaiian language and for which distinct standards be adopted for Hawaiian language medium preschoolers that feed into kindergarten and first grades taught through Hawaiian.</p>
<p>(2) Align with the state content and performance standards for grades kindergarten to twelve to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children.</p>	<p>(2) Align with language of instruction in the state content and performance standards for grades kindergarten to twelve to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children.</p>	

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 7:19 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: jedill@pidfoundation.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB864

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:

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841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Karl Rhoades, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

February 12, 2013

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB864 HD1, establishing a statewide early childhood education program.

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

The Coalition supports the establishment of a statewide early childhood education program and the financial appropriation to support the program. As we support the school readiness program, proposed in HB862, which gives priority to the late born four-year-olds that will not be able to attend Junior Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 school year, we also support the early childhood education program, expanding the program to three- and four-year-old children, and targeting the underserved and at-risk children. We also applaud the effort to align content and performance standards of the early childhood education program with those of the K-12 system to allow for a consistent and high-quality educational experience for children.

We also continue to recommend the development and implementation of an outreach program to preschools and families to assure a seamless transition to the new system being proposed in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

*Castle Complex Community Council

Center for Civic Education

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

*DOE Windward District

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and
Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Education Matters

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity
Coalition

*Hawaii State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Kamehameha Schools

*Kanu Hawai'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the
Odds

*Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and
Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of
Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members (*)

February 12, 2013

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

From:

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

Amelia J.F. Jose
84-1120 Hana St.
Waianae, HI 96792

February 12, 2013

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

From: Anne Keir

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Tessie Kotrys & Jimmy Edsell

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Cheryl Tabaco

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

I believe that the children are our future and all children deserve a chance at a quality early childhood education. I would rather invest in the child now than pay to house the adult later. It is time Hawaii takes a stand for early education and all the good it does in the child's life. Children should come first... before buildings, highways, prisoners... we need more tax dollars invested in our keiki. Let them know and the world know that we care!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 11, 2013

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

From: Christy Ryan

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children like my daughter for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents like me with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

Christy Ryan
christy.ryan@ricoh-usa.com
554-8829

February 12, 2013

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

From: Colleen Miyashiro

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

As a Mother, Grandmother and Social Worker working in a homeless shelter I have observed the tremendous difference early education opportunities make in the lives of children. The children are our future and I desire for these children to become successful, productive citizens. I hope that you will support HB864 HD1 as we look forward to a future of success stories due to the decision made today.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 3:34 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: gsphonolulu@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM

HB864

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
Corinne Uehara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this bill. Please allow the funding of private preschools so all four-year olds may attend.

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

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February 12, 2013

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

From:

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Dirks
Mother of Kaira Dirks, DOB: 9/1/09

February 12, 2013

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

From: Desiree Kawasaki Abreu, Educator

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Elisabeth Dingus

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:00 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: Gfarstrup@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB864

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
Greg and Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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February 12, 2013

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

From: Jennibeth Decasa

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

I am a newly mom to a 6 month old baby boy. With this new role, I see now how important it is to have access to an early childhood education program. I would want the same for all the young children. Please help make this possible by passing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Jin Chang

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. For the past five years, I've worked with homeless families and their keiki on the Leeward Coast. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. And many of the families I work alongside would otherwise be unable to afford quality early childhood education for their keiki without a statewide program.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Kay Lipps

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because I am a mother who believes that a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. As an Early Childhood Educator, I can validate that his program would support the development and education of young children.

Early Childhood Educators, like me, agree with studies that have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs. It's long overdue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Ku'ulani Keohokalole

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

HB864 HD1 is important to me because I have a 2 year old preschool aged son and a baby girl due in 3 months, whose futures will be radically affected in positive ways should we invest in them now by creating an accessible and affordable statewide early childhood education program.

As a parent, I know firsthand the sacrifices that must be made in order to ensure my children's long-term success. So too, the state should be able to set its priority investments in children now in order to see both short-term and long-term benefits for our entire society.

HB864 will give families like mine - who make just dollars over current subsidy program eligibility requirements but who struggle to afford early education despite that fact - the opportunity to give our children the best possible start.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 11, 2013

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

From:

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation to help young children achieve the important tasks of development and learning in the early years and to assure their future educational and career success.

Hawaii must invest in our future by investing in our youngest citizens and their families. Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. The program supported by HB864 HD1 will provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

Linda Buck, Coordinator
Early Childhood Programs
Honolulu Community College

February 12, 2013

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

From:

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. I am a preschool teacher for a classroom of 3-year-olds. The majority of my students receive financial assistance to attend preschool. Many of my students in my care will be impacted by the cutoff date for children to enter kindergarten. Because of this these children will lose a year of education while waiting to meet the age requirement to enter kindergarten. What they have gained thus far in school will be lost as they wait this year. Many primary grade teachers will tell you how better equip our children are who have had preschool. They are ahead of their peers who have not had and/or could not afford to attend preschool. Children who have had preschool will read sooner than their peers who have had no preschool experience and have a higher emotional intelligence which is needed and very important when working with people. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

TESTIMONY to the House Judicial Committee

HB 864 H.D.1 Relating to Early Childhood Education

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

2:05 PM -- State Capitol Conference Room 325

Submitted in **OPPOSITION** by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI

Chairman Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har and Committee Members

1. The claims of success of early childhood programs are not substantiated in [2010](#) and [2012](#) assessments of the Head Start Program upon which the Hawai'i program is modeled as released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). After fifty years and billions of dollars spent, the assessments showed there was no significant advantage to attending the Head Start program. Hawai'i should not take this failed path.
2. There is personal and economic waste in these programs. Government should not waste the talents of professional teaching staff when there is no proven advantage to the student or the community. Pre-kindergarten care/education can be equally provided by family, friends, or other members of the community. No teaching certificate is necessary to obtain equal results, according the HHS assessments.
3. Hawai'i already has a Department of Education. It is non-productive to establish yet another educational bureaucracy.
4. It is purported that there is strong community support for this program. It is unlikely people surveyed were aware of the dismal results of the Head Start Program when they were [polled](#) about a state run early childhood program since the 2010 HHS assessment was not widely disseminated and the 2012 HHS report had not yet been released. New polls should be conducted only after the people participating are told of the Head Start program's failure to produce any tangible results and they are provided the cost of the program and specifics of the taxes that will be imposed on the community.
5. It is impossible to have "developmentally appropriate" education for 3 and 4 year olds since their [brains](#) do not mature at the same pace. Starting academic programs too early can be harmful to children.
6. HB 864 H.D. 1 is based on erroneous data. It would be a travesty to our keiki and our community if it were approved.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 3:24 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: meccaleccahi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM

HB864

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
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Honorable Chair & Committee Members: I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1

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February 12, 2013

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

From: Nohealani LenWai

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

My daughter is currently in a junior kindergarten program at an elementary school in our district. It's really just a blended kindergarten class and she isn't treated any different than the kindergartners in her class. She's young, and is having a VERY hard time keeping up with the curriculum & following instructions as well as socializing with her peers. Previously, she was enrolled in an excellent preschool where we thought she was ready to move on to junior kindergarten. We also couldn't afford another year of preschool tuition. Even with financial assistance, our portion was still a substantial amount for our income. I truly believe, 100%, that if we had been able to keep her in preschool one more year; she would have benefitted and would have gone in to kindergarten completely ready. As a result of us putting her into the program too early, she will have to repeat kindergarten again next year.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 3:20 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: paul.mckimmy@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM

HB864

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
Paul McKimmy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honorable Chair & Committee Members: I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

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February 12, 2013

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

From: Rachel Heckscher

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 12, 2013

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

From: Rina Andrade

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 6:27 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: romaj@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB864

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
Roma Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 12, 2013

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

From: Rosetta Hiranaga, Maui resident

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

Sincerely,

Rosetta Hiranaga
808 244-3211

February 12, 2013

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

From: Tessie Kotrys & Jimmy Edsell

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

February 11, 2013

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

From: Tracy Harris

Re: HB 864 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chair & Committee Members:

I support HB864 HD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards creating a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. HB864 HD1 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

We have four children and moved here from the state of Florida in 2011. Florida implemented the VPK program making Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten free for many families in the state. Two of our children are now in elementary school and we have a 2 year old and a 1 year old that would benefit from Hawaii's Early Childhood Education program. HB864 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Any way we can support education to all families and take the financial burden from learning is a win-win for the community and the school. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my personal testimony in support of HB864 HD1.

har2-Vincent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 3:22 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: 381f7102@opayq.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 12, 2013 14:05PM*

HB864

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
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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