



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

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

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

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

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

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

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

**H.B. 862**

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

The Program must be in place to provide services to the gap group that will result from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age (children must be five years old by July 31 of the school year to enroll in DOE kindergarten) mandated by Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. DOE estimates

there are 5,100 children in the gap group – those born between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. It is critical that we act now to make sure these children do not fall off the cliff – we must have the School Readiness Program ready for them.

#### **H.B. 864**

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

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

#### **H.B. 853**

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

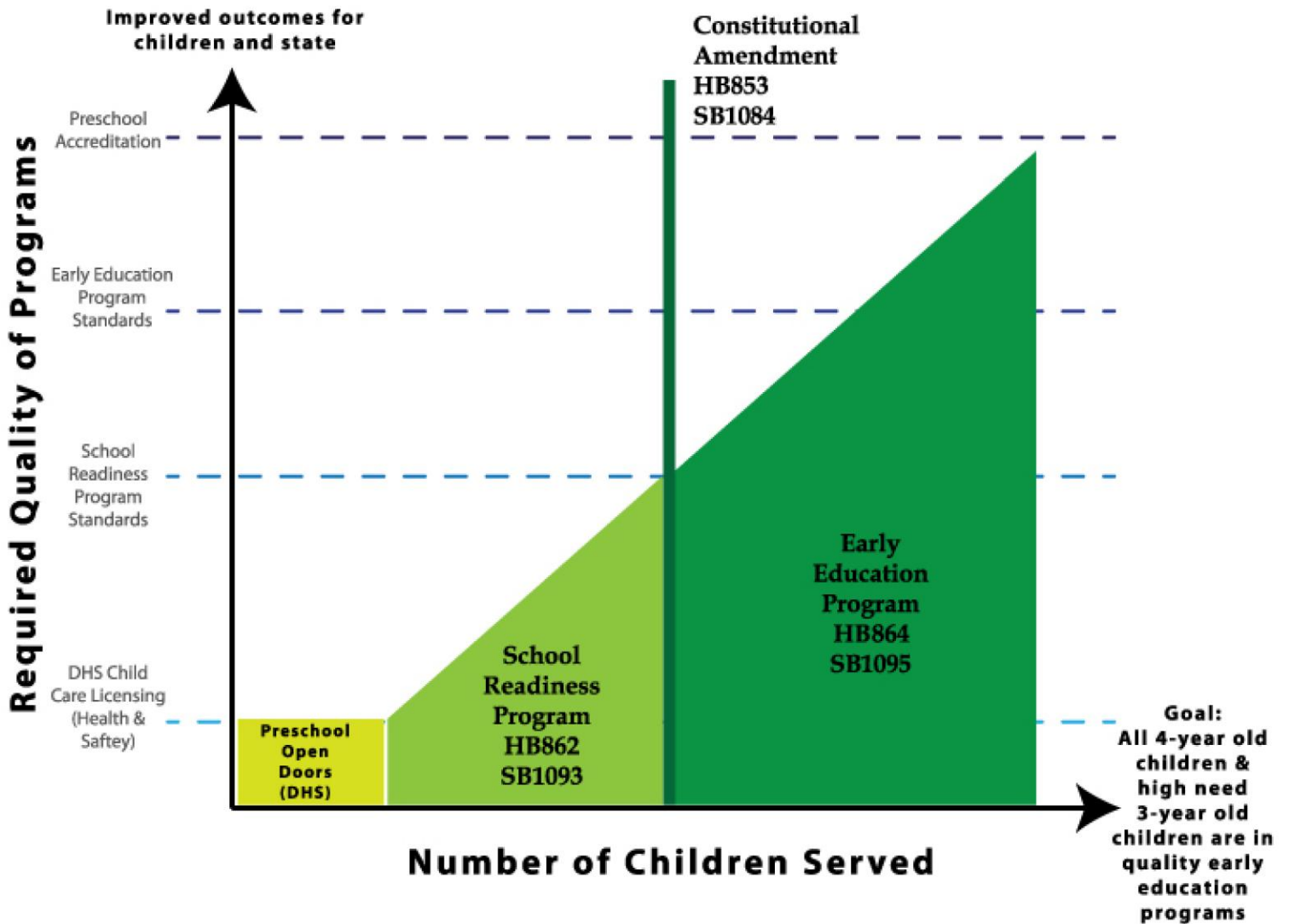
Only when voters ratify the Constitutional amendment will we be able to implement the high-quality early childhood education program described in H.B. 864. The Constitutional amendment and H.B. 864 will help the State meet its goal of providing a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii’s children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

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

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

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

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



Differences Between the School Readiness Program and Early Childhood Education Program

- The School Readiness Program (H.B. 862):
  - Will help a child prepare to learn by focusing more on socialization skills.
  - Services can only be delivered through DHS-licensed child care providers and DOE.
  - What we can implement *now* without a Constitutional amendment. Immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. Provides services to the gap group resulting from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age.
  - Establishes the foundation/infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.
  
- The Early Childhood Education Program (H.B. 864):
  - The large, full-scale program that will help a child with social-emotional development but also intellectual development. Incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment, and teacher quality. Tied to educational outcomes.
  - Only under this program will we be able to hold participating providers accountable for educational outcomes, which is what is needed to help us achieve the outcomes we want for children.
  - Because the focus is on education, the risk of it being challenged under the Constitution is high – there has been litigation in the past.





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

**Date:** 02/01/2013

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 0864 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 0864. 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.



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

February 1, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 864 - RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

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

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 864 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.



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Education**

**H.B. 0864, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.**  
**Director of Health**  
**February 1, 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

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.



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 864, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Friday, February 1, 2013 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or  
Gary S. Suganuma, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Takumi 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.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

ALII PLACE  
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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KEITH M. KANESHIRO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING  
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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

February 1, 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

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

### HB 864: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

The University of Hawai'i supports HB 864 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 multiple 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 Board, and have consistently supported the establishment of an early learning system in Hawai'i and the kind of early education described in HB 864.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm

by  
Chaminade University of Honolulu President  
Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, Ph.D.

**HB 864**  
**Relating to Early Childhood Education**

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

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

Chaminade University of Honolulu supports the legislation to establish a statewide early childhood education system. Hawaii is one of only 11 states without a state-funded preschool program. Early childhood education programs have immediate and long-term benefits for all children. Ability to afford these programs should not be a criteria in provision of services. All of Hawaii's children need to have the opportunity at the earliest age to succeed. An established statewide early childhood education program is the way to provide this opportunity.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro Bernard J Ploeger, SM". The signature is written in a cursive style.



Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Education

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 2:00 pm

by  
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean  
Dr. Joe Peters

**HB 864**  
**Relating to Early Childhood Education**

Chairperson Takumi, Vice Chair Takashi Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 864** 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** 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.

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#### 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.





## HAWAII STATE PTSA

*every child. one voice.*

765 Amana Street · Suite 308 · Honolulu · HI · 96814

TEL: (808) 943-2042 · FAX: (808) 945-2042 · EMAIL: [histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com)

January 30, 2013

Senator Tokuda  
Chair of the Education Committee – State Capitol

RE: HB864 – RELATING TO HEALTH  
Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The PTSA **supports** HB864 that establishes a statewide school readiness program.

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

The PTSA supports preparing all children for success in school through the establishment of a statewide readiness program which consist of providers assisting families. In Connecticut, the Danbury School District tracked 391 children using the Preschool Assessment Framework (PAF). By the final PAF assessment more than 80% of all the children were at or above goal and ready for Kindergarten. (<http://www.danburypromiseforchildren.org/DSRDataAnalysisReport.pdf>)

The Hawaii Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, also known as the Hawaii State PTSA, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of more than 7,000 dedicated to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. Chartered in 1926, the Hawaii State PTSA is Hawaii's oldest and largest child advocacy organization. We are a state charter of the [National PTA](#), made up of local units throughout the State of Hawaii.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to your continued support during this legislative session.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Liz Sager  
President  
(Original signatures are on file)

Jessica Wong-Sumida  
VP-Legislation



February 1, 2013

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

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Testimony in **support** of HB 864: Relating to Early Childhood Education.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of HB 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education. However, we draw the Committee's attention to the dependence of this measure on the passage of a constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be used for private early childhood education. We therefore encourage the Committees to also examine additional ways in which existing state programs and Departments could be employed to carry out the EOEL's mission to provide high quality school readiness programming to Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.

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 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 seeks to establish a high quality school readiness 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.

This measure enables the EOEL to move forward with its goal to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. We know firsthand that the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth that comes with high-quality school readiness programming serves to prepare children for school.

We hope the EOEL will take great effort 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 learning program. 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.

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 864 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality pre-kindergarten program that will serve all of Hawaii's four-year-old children.

Thank you,  
Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance



## HAWAII STATE PTSA

*every child. one voice.*

765 Amana Street · Suite 308 · Honolulu · HI · 96814

TEL: (808) 943-2042 · FAX: (808) 945-2042 · EMAIL: [histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com)

January 29, 2013

Senator Tokuda and Senator Oakland  
Chair of the Education and Human Services – State Capitol

RE: HB864 – RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Oakland, Vice-Chair Kidani and Green, and Members of the Committee,

The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) **supports** HB864 that establishes a statewide school readiness program.

The PTSA **supports** HB864 that establishes an early childhood education program within the early learning system.

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

The PTSA supports preparing all children for success in school through the establishment of a statewide readiness program which consist of providers assisting families. In Connecticut, the Danbury School District tracked 391 children using the Preschool Assessment Framework (PAF). By the final PAF assessment more than 80% of all the children were at or above goal and ready for Kindergarten. (<http://www.danburypromiseforchildren.org/DSRDataAnalysisReport.pdf>)

Furthermore, this system needs to implement research-based practices and be provided by qualified practitioner so children can transition seamlessly into the Department of Education despite coming from various settings.

The Hawaii Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, also known as the Hawaii State PTSA, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of more than 7,000 dedicated to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. Chartered in 1926, the Hawaii State PTSA is Hawaii's oldest and largest child advocacy organization. We are a state charter of the [National PTA](#), made up of local units throughout the State of Hawaii.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to your continued support during this legislative session.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Liz Sager

President  
(Original signatures are on file)

Jessica Wong-Sumida

VP-Legislation

Testimony on HB862 and HB864

Friday, February 1, 2013

2:00 pm, State Capitol Room 309

By LYNN HAMMONDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

January 31, 2012

Dear Chair Takumi:

I am writing in support of HB862 Relating to School Readiness and HB864 Relating to Early Childhood Education. A multitude of research, a lifetime of teaching experiences centered in preschool and lower elementary grades has proven to me that an investment in early learning reaps countless rewards for children, families and communities. I applaud the efforts of the Governor, the Legislature and the Executive Office on Early Learning for recognizing the importance of early learning and developing programs for young children.

Support for school readiness and an early learning system is the best investment in our future and in education that we can make and lays a strong foundation for learning in the grades that follow. When children come to school cognitively, linguistically, socially and emotionally ready to learn the elementary grades can build on these experiences. Children without access to school readiness or early learning programs often start their academic careers already behind their peers who participated in such programs. In addition, the opportunity for earlier intervention for “at risk” children may avert future learning difficulties. I strongly support both the School Readiness Program and the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**RE: HB 864 – Relating to Early Childhood Education**

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

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS supports HB864** 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.





**KCAA**

PRESCHOOLS OF HAWAII

*For over 100 years,  
preparing children for success*

2707 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: (808) 941-9414  
Fax: (808) 946-1468

[www.kcaapreschools.org](http://www.kcaapreschools.org)

February 1, 2013

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

From: Christina Cox, President  
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii

Subject: HB 864 Relating to Early Childhood Education

ATHERTON – KAILUA  
KUAPA – HAWAII KAI  
LAURA MORGAN – KAPALAMA HEIGHTS  
MOTHER RICE – MOILIILI  
MURIEL – KAKAAKO  
NA LEI – KALIHI  
WAI-KAHALA - KAHALA

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 by the Woman's Board of Missions to serve the children of immigrant workers. We serve over 900 children per year in 7 NAEYC accredited preschools on Oahu. More than 50% of our students are low-income and over 80% go on to attend DOE elementary schools. We manage tuition subsidies from 7 different sources, each with its own set of requirements. We have a \$7 million annual operating budget with 130 employees. KCAA has just completed the construction of a \$3.2 million professional development center for early educators, Hawaii's first! It is located on our Mother Rice property in Moiliili. The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Early Education and Development is funded exclusively by private businesses and Hawaii's dedicated philanthropic community. KCAA's Board was instrumental in this effort and is committed to working with the early childhood community to increase the number of qualified teachers, to improve their practice and to improve outcomes for Hawaii's *keiki*.

Please note that while I presently serve as the center-based program provider representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board and also serve as the Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii which represents more than 60 centers throughout the State I am testifying today as the President of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a position that I have held for the past 12 years.

So much has changed during my 30 years working in the field of early education in Hawaii. It used to be that having teachers who genuinely enjoyed working with young children and who possessed a joy of learning, a natural curiosity about the world and were willing to share that with the children in their care, was enough. We now need to be sure that our teachers possess not only those important characteristics, but also the knowledge and skills required to help our children compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We now know that 85% of a child's brain develops in the first few years of life and that there are critical experiences we should provide a young child with in order to optimize growth and development.



- Early experiences have a decisive impact on the actual architecture of the brain and on the nature and extent of adult capacities.
- By the time children from middle-income families are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade they know about 12,000 words compared to low income children who know just 4,000 words, one third as many as their peers. This gap begins in the early years and research has repeatedly confirmed that early education makes all the difference in school success.

The time to act is now. We have a Governor who has made early childhood development and education a top priority, we have the support of both the philanthropic and business communities and we have seasoned legislators who possess a deep understanding of the issue and who are committed to working together with the broader community to create a better future for our youngest citizens.

**I support the passage of HB 864, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution, will establish a statewide early childhood education program that will ultimately provide a variety of high quality choices for families and which will also honor the values of our host culture and respond to the needs of our rural communities.**

We will need to pay special attention to the nuts and bolts of this program design if it is to achieve its goal. The program should have achievable program standards, and provide programs with adequate resources, both human and financial, to succeed.

All programs, regardless of setting, should be held to the same program quality standards, in particular as they relate to teacher training and education levels, as well as class group size and ratio. Each of these program elements significantly impact affordability and if we are to serve those children who would have otherwise not had an early education experience before entering kindergarten, we must be sure that we create a program which those families can afford.

Eligibility criteria, including income levels and subsidy rates which will be used as the basis for determining each child's level of funding will also be a key determinant as to the economic viability of participation for all providers.

As an example, KCAA, much like a majority of center-based programs statewide who choose to serve children receiving DHS subsidies, suffered significant declines in enrollment when the State dramatically reduced funding levels for families in 2009. The majority of us have yet to recover as funding levels have remained low and that is a primary reason for the decline in the number of children entering kindergarten with any preschool experience in recent years.

When all is said and done we need to join together, to find some common ground and to see our children as an investment rather an expense. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

by  
Donald B. Young

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

About the TECC

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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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 Education

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

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

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

I am writing in support of 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



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

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

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

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013

Subject: HB 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@hawaiieyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiieyc.org).

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy  
Executive Director  
HAEYC





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

January 29, 2013

Senator Takumi  
Chair of the Education Committee – State Capitol

RE: HB864 – RELATING TO HEALTH  
Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program

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

The Community Children's Councils (CCCs) **strongly supports** HB864 that establishes a statewide school readiness program. We further support the testimony of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC).

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

The CCCs continue to support early childhood programs which implement research-based interventions that are developmentally base with qualified staff. Children who currently enter Kindergarten are at varying levels of maturation which make it difficult for teachers to close the gap even with differentiated instruction. The early childhood education programs can help this issue by utilizing evidenced practices to prepare the children for the rigorous environments and standards of education that they will face in Kindergarten which will have long-term positive impacts on their college and/or career in the future.

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

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

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)

February 1, 2013

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

From: Blue Horizen Management, LLC

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.



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January 31, 2013

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

From: Dean Okimoto  
President - 'Nalo Farms Inc.

RE: Testimony in **support** of HB 864: Relating to School Readiness.

I, Dean Okimoto, President of 'Nalo Farms, Inc. and a member of the Board of GBA am in support of HB 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education. However, we draw the Committees' attention to the dependence of this measure on the passage of a constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be used for private early childhood education. We therefore encourage the Committees to also examine additional ways in which existing state programs and Departments could be employed to carry out the EOEL's mission to provide high quality school readiness programming to Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.

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 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 seeks to establish a high quality school readiness 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.



This measure enables the EOEL to move forward with its mission to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. We know firsthand that the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth that comes with high-quality school readiness programming serves to prepare children for school.

We hope the EOEL will take great care 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 learning program. 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.

We are encouraged by this measure's focus on high quality standards and data collection. These are critical components for ensuring measured 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.

I, Dean Okimoto support HB 864 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality pre-kindergarten program that will serve all of Hawaii's four year old children.

Thank you,

Dean J. Okimoto  
President  
'Nalo Farms, Inc.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

February 1, 2013

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

This testimony is submitted in support for HB864, 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 (\*)



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

February 1, 2013

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Jan Tateishi, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

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

RE: HB 864 - Relating to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Takumi and Committee members,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** HB 864 that establishes the Early Childhood Education Program.

SEAC has long held that all children, with and without disabilities, benefit from quality, early learning programs that address their unique needs and help prepare these keiki for academic success. HB 864 will be instrumental in expanding quality programs by requiring contracted providers to utilize research-based and developmentally appropriate practices and to align their curriculum with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards and the Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten through twelfth grade. The bill also addresses the need to enhance the skills of early learning providers by requiring training in early childhood education or child development.

Hopefully these new educational resources for young children will expand the options for young children with disabilities to be educated with their non-disabled peers. They may also reduce the need for some special education services in succeeding years by intervening early with effective interventions when children struggle with academic and socio-emotional goals.

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

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

*Closing the achievement  
and preparation gaps  
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore  
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward  
Oahu communities*

January 31, 2013

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

From: Terrence R. George, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I strongly support HB864, 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 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.

We must provide access to high-quality early childhood education for all four-year-olds if we are to put all our keiki on a path to succeed throughout their educational careers and life.

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

Sincerely yours,

Terrence R. George  
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

1197 Auloa Road  
Kailua, Hawai'i  
96734

tel 808-263-7073  
fax 808-261-6918

[www.castlefoundation.org](http://www.castlefoundation.org)



February 1, 2013

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

From: Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Hanahau`oli School

Re: Testimony in **support** of **HB864: Relating to Early Childhood Education**

Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony in **support** of **HB864 Relating to Early Education**. This bill establishes the early childhood education program which can only be implemented after the Constitutional Amendment is approved. This program will be delivered through the DOE and private early childhood education programs that meet high levels of quality and seek educational outcomes for children.

Research demonstrates that children who participate in quality early childhood education programs are more likely to enter school ready for learning and experience greater school success because of the foundation set in these early years. Currently, over 40% of our *keiki* enter school without a preschool experience in Hawaii. High quality early childhood education programs have immediate and long-term benefits for children and their families, especially for those at-risk. Our communities, too, benefit because the quality of life for participants tends to improve; and, as a recent study indicates for Hawaii, every \$1 invested yields a return rate of over \$4.00.

This bill provides a framework for the high quality early childhood education program that will replace the Junior Kindergarten program in 2014 and sets the stage for an expansion to provide assistance statewide for all families of 4-year olds who choose to participate in such a program. I strongly urge you to pass **HB864** to set our our state on a path to a sustainable future by serving the needs of our most valuable resource, our children.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 1:55 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Ken\_Conklin@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM

**HB864**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b>       | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. | Individual          | Comments Only             | No                        |

Comments: To: House Committee on Education From: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Date: January 29, 2012 There are two issues I hope you'll consider: (1) The State of Hawaii does not have unlimited resources. The program proposed in this bill would be very expensive. Please stop increasing taxes to pay for a host of programs which might be desirable but which we cannot afford. I call upon our legislators to establish a list of budget priorities, identify the expected cost of implementing this bill, and then specify in the bill which already-existing programs should be cut or eliminated in order to offset the cost of implementing this bill. (2) Please amend this bill to include the following concept: In implementing this legislation, no State of Hawaii government money shall be paid to any private school or institution which excludes or gives preference to students based on ancestry, religion, gender, or national origin.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## Support for HB864

As a longtime early childhood educator on Maui, I am fully in support of this measure, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program. This program, to be delivered through both the DOE and private preschool settings, will ensure that our state's youngest children receive a high quality educational experience that prepares them for success in school and beyond.

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohna, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education  
.  
From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant  
Date: Friday, February 1, 2013, 2:00 pm  
Conference Room  
Subject: **HB 864: Relating to Early Childhood Education**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of HB 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education**, which provides for state-funded voluntary early education programs to be administered by the executive office on early learning. Hawaii is one of only 11 states that have not yet addressed the critical issue of children entering kindergarten not ready to succeed. Research clearly demonstrates that quality early childhood programs do make a positive difference and that starting school without the crucial readiness skills negatively affects future learning and life outcomes.

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

We know that 85% of a child's brain develops by age 5 years – and yet our state continues to not invest in the early years.

Over the past 7 years we have been tracking the status of Hawaii's young children entering kindergarten. As we fail to invest in early learning - please note:

- There are **increasing numbers of children entering kindergarten without the necessary skills for success**. Kindergarten teachers report this year - three-quarters of the children are not ready.
- There are **increasing numbers of children without preschool experience prior to kindergarten entry**: 43% in 2012-2013 entering class.

We know this long-term solution is crucial to Hawaii's successful future. We know this is the way to positively affect the educational outcomes and create educational equity for our most at-risk children.

This year many of **the 39 states that already invest in early learning are proposing increases to their investments because they see these programs benefiting children and making economic sense**. Legislators and Governors in Alabama, Oregon, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Missouri, New Mexico, and Indiana are all proposing increases to their early learning investments and addressing the challenge of creating a better educated citizenry. What is Hawaii waiting for? **Do we value our children less than they do?** Please act this year. Hawaii's children and Hawaii's future are at stake.

Contact Information: [lizchun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lizchun@hawaii.rr.com)

February 1, 2013

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

From: Catherine Momi Medeiros

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a mother, grandmother and a Direct Support worker, I support HB864, 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 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.

Sincerely,

*Momi Medeiros*

C. Momi Medeiros  
1502 Koene Place  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: 385-0439  
Email: anakemomi@yahoo.com



February 1, 2013

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

From: Rachel Donahue

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

Rachel Donahue, MSW, LSW  
Case Manager  
racheld.msw@gmail.com

February 1, 2013

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

From: Mai Wong

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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. Without this support children who are disadvantaged will be further disadvantaged.

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

February 1, 2013

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

From: Leigh Johnson

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Lily Rose Johnson

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Osiris Johnson

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.



February 1, 2013

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

From: Rina Andrade

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

**ohno2-Jun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 9:03 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Gfarstrup@msn.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB864**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Greg & 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 1, 2013

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

From: Jim Eberle

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

This is our chance to invest in the future of our State. All the data proves access to early learning improves graduation rates, increases economic status as adults, and *decreases* grade repetition, special education referrals, *welfare dependency and criminal activity*.

I can't imagine any other investment that can produce such a high return as a statewide school readiness program. It's our future at stake. Imagine our state with a tremendous drop in the need for social programs, and the savings we accumulate that could be used to better improve our standard of living for all our citizens.

I work directly with families seeking to enroll their child(ren) in preschool programs. The number of parents that struggle with comprehension of program requirements is staggering. Our program is one of the simplest programs to apply for. The same is true to continue compliance to stay in the program. The volume of our drop off rate is disturbing. Let's change the course for our children and ensure they have better opportunities in their future.

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

February 1, 2013

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

From: Mark Ebert

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

Mark Ebert

January 31, 2013

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

From: Cherilyn Shiinoki

RE: HB862 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
HB864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Dear Honorable Chairs and Committee Members,

Please support HB862 and HB864, which establishes a statewide school readiness program through the Executive Office of Early Learning and a statewide high-quality early childhood education program. HB862 will set up the pathway for our keiki that are no longer eligible to be educated through the Department of Education as a result of Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to be ready for kindergarten when they are eligible. As HB862 states, "many of the children who do not have experiences in pre-kindergarten programs could be eighteen to twenty-four months behind in development than their peers who do." This is especially true in a young child's social emotional development which is absolutely necessary for primary school teachers to effectively teach their students.

If Act 178 had been passed 1 year before it did, my son would not have been able to enter kindergarten because of his late year birthday. However, my husband and I decided to keep him in an accredited high-quality program, even though he was eligible to enter kindergarten in 2011 because we did not feel that he was emotionally ready for the structured kindergarten classroom environment. Now, in his kindergarten year, he still has difficulty managing his desire to share his ideas and often disrupts the class. I could not imagine how difficult it would have been for him to feel he could be successful in school if he did not have the extra year of preschool opportunities to practice his social-emotional skills with other children in an understanding, nurturing environment. Fortunately, our family was in the financial position to provide him a preschool education and make a choice. Sadly, there are so many families where this is not the case. Act 178 now puts many low income families in the position of "no choice." Without HB862 & HB864, these families may not be able to afford quality pre-K experiences and may not be able to work as they will need to stay at home with their children. This only increases their economic demands and stress in the home.

Research shows that the more a family is in partnership with their children's teachers and schools, the more likely their children are to succeed. Families are more involved when their children are young. Preschool is the optimal opportunity for families to become comfortable being involved in their children's educational experience so that when problems arise later in their academic career; families are empowered to partner with their schools. Unfortunately, it is the same families who need these partnerships the most that are not able to afford a pre-K experience.

HB862 and HB864 work together to ensure a bright start for the children of Hawaii. Recent brain research stress the importance of providing meaningful, repetitive, and varied experiences for the optimal development of executive function skills, such as inhibitory control and mental flexibility, which allows a person to be successful in life and a contributor to society. These experiences and opportunities for practice need to occur before the age of 5 with professionals who can facilitate this development. I believe in HB862 & HB864 and hope that you will support them for all of our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of these important bills.



February 1, 2013

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

From: Cinzia Olter

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Michelle L. Johnson  
P.O. Box 1220  
Waianae, HI 96792

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

## Testimony – HB 864

As early childhood educators, we are thrilled at the possibility of a funded statewide early childhood program. Yet, the current draft of HB 864 presents a limiting view of what the proposed statewide early childhood program could be if based beyond readiness.

HB 864 positions early childhood education as an intervention. Research presented within the bill positions young children as incapable and already at a deficit level when entering preschool. It is implied that families and communities are not worthy of empowering young children to think and in order to save these children, they must be in preschools focusing on “readying” children for school.

Skill-oriented readiness narrows children’s opportunities to learn joyfully in the context of their families, communities and schools. Readiness does not work – it cannot be measured, there are no scores or tests or behaviors that can determine who is ready and who is not (Graue, 1993, 1998, 2000; Shepard, 1990). Readiness diminishes children’s lives to numbers defined through readiness assessments.

According to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), indicating 15-years-olds’ proficiency in reading, maths, and science worldwide, Finland is again first in the rankings for 2012 (The United States is 17<sup>th</sup>) (*The Economist*, January 19-25, 2013). Interestingly enough, the focus of the schools in Finland is not excellence but equity. Educational policy in Finland is framed by the belief that every child should have the same opportunity to learn, regardless of socio-economic status, family background, or location. There are no private schools in Finland. Education is “an instrument to even out social inequality.” (<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/12/what-americans-keep-ignoring-about-finlands-school-success/250564/>).

In creating an early childhood education program, we have the opportunity to focus on equity. If you had all the money possible to send your child to school, would you choose a program based on readiness, a term that cannot even be measured, or would you choose to send your child to one of the private schools in Hawaii like Mid-Pacific or Hanalei where children are viewed as capable and teachers listen and respond to children in order to create learning experiences? According to Lena Nyberg (promoter of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child), it is important to listen to children, understand their perspectives, and encourage “their participation as adults’ equal partners” (Samuelsson and Kaga, 2008, p. 10).

Finland has great respect for young children. So much so that children are encouraged to play and do not experience formal literacy teaching until they 7-years-old – much in line with how young children’s brain develop and work. Children in Finland learn to read in a matter of months. In the United States, it takes children two and a half years to learn to read as they are initiated into formal reading teaching at five-years-old (and maybe even four-years-old if readiness becomes central to the proposed four-year-old program).

The proposed 4-year-old program conveniently aligns with the statewide P-3 initiative (part of P-20W) evident in the elements of readiness, literacy, and quantitative data collection (part of the statewide longitudinal data system). As written, the proposed early childhood program frames a climate for more standards and testing (all inappropriate for young children) in order to build data. Hawaii has monies to establish the longitudinal data system and are now actively searching for funds to sustain the system. Suggested means of sustaining the data system are through federal grants, ensuring states' dependence on the federal government.

Building a sustainable Hawaii is critical to the future of our state. We can create an early learning system connected to the community and chose not to be shackled to federal monies. This means letting go of limiting ideas like readiness and data and moving towards valuing Hawaii and the communities throughout the state. Further, "young children have been burdened with requirements to absorb more and more knowledge and skills, driven by social pressure that urge each child to join the conveyor belt racing towards a 'good job' many years hence" (Herbert, 2008, p. 65). With the P-20W view on early childhood education, early childhood is being defined by workforce development. Early childhood should be when children live childhood rather than the limiting perspective of early childhood as just a time to prepare.

We strongly endorse an early childhood program empowering children to be active and participating citizens, contributing to the building of a sustainable Hawaii. A commitment to this kind of program compels schools to be ready to teach all children, regardless of abilities, experiences, or readiness skills. We want to create an early learning system that inspires children to become competent and capable learners and thinkers, healthy in mind, body, and spirit, confident in who they are and how they contribute to a democratic and equitable society.

Please see our written amendment for how HB 864 can reflect our testimony.

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 864 as follows:

on page 3, line 13, replacing "prepare children for school" with the following: "prepare children to actively participate in society"; and

on page 3, line 15, adding "focused on equity and" after "...education" and before "that..."; and

on page 5, line 4, replacing "Align with the state content and performance standards...." with the following, "recognize early childhood as a place where children live their childhood and informs learning"; and

on page 5, line 11, adding "including qualitative data such as documentation" after "...data" and before "to...".

Submitted by:

Jeanne Marie Iorio, EdD  
(EdM, Harvard University; EdD, Teachers College, Columbia University)

Susan Matoba Adler, PhD  
(PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

January 31, 2013



February 1, 2013

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

From:

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Joy Portela, Parent

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Michaela Primacio

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

**ohno2-Jun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 1:11 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mpu808@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM

**HB864**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Corinne Uehara      | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: I support HB864 and would like to see every child in our state given the opportunity to attend preschool before starting public school. I believe the state should help families who need financial assistance for preschool. Thank you.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 1, 2013

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

From: Keith Vieira, SVP  
Director of Operations  
Starwood Hotels & Resorts

RE: Testimony in **support** of HB 864: Relating to School Readiness.

I am in support of HB 864, Relating to Early Childhood Education. However, this measure is dependent on the passage of a constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be used for private early childhood education. Therefore, I encourage the Committees to also examine additional ways in which existing state programs and Departments could be employed to carry out the EOEL's mission to provide high quality school readiness programing to Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.

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 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.

Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provide no significant state funding for early learning program. This measure enables the EOEL to move forward with its mission to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. I hope the EOEL will take great care 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.

This measure's focus on high quality standards and data collection are critical components for ensuring measured success of the early learning program. However, the Legislature and the EOEL should 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, the EOEL should provide methods of incentivizing, or providing, appropriate workforce development opportunities for professionals currently in, or considering moving into, the field of early childhood education.

Again, I am in support of HB 864 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality pre-kindergarten program that will serve all of Hawaii's four year old children.

Mahalo.



February 1, 2013

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

From: Leah Schoenberg Muccio, PhD

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 864, which establishes the Early Childhood Program. Opportunities to participate in high quality early childhood education experiences can and do make a tremendous difference for children and families. The short and long term benefits to children, families, and society as a whole when children attend quality preschool programs, particularly for low income children, are irrefutable and supported by a substantial body of research.

For example, the Abecedarian Project, now examining children from the study in their 30s, reveals that the children who had access to a high quality preschool program are continuing to experience the benefits in a variety of ways. The project began in 1972 with 111 babies from low-income families who were randomly assigned to two groups. Half were enrolled in quality early childhood education from infancy to kindergarten; the other half, the control group, did not participate in the early childhood education program. The children who attended the preschool program were more likely to have earned college degrees, more likely to have been consistently employed, more likely to delay parenthood, and less likely to use public assistance than participants who did not have access to the program. Although the investment was significant, this research provides just one example of the worth of such an investment. The program was estimated to have saved \$2.50 for every dollar spent.

Here in Hawaii, the likely benefit has been calculated as even greater. The Good Beginnings Alliance found that for every one dollar to be spent here, that would yield \$4.20 worth of benefits to society. The time to provide these opportunities to the children of Hawaii is NOW. As an early childhood educator and teacher educator, I know personally the joys of seeing children learn, grown, and become prepared for their future challenges. I know it is one of the most worthy investments we can make.

Sincerely,

Dr. Leah S. Muccio

January 31, 2013

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

From: Jane Dickson

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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 have been fortunate to spend my entire working life in early childhood education – teaching in Head Start programs, private preschools, first and second grade classrooms, and the undergraduate elementary and early childhood program at UH Manoa. Therefore, I know through personal experience that good preschool programs help children in so many ways. Children's social growth, their intellectual curiosity, their physical development, and their emotional health are all fostered in a quality preschool. Children learn to work and share with others, listen to a story, ask questions, explore the world around them, and value themselves as capable learners. They come to see school as a place where they belong and where they can succeed.

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

February 1, 2013

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

From: Rheta Kuwahara-Fujita

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I have been a preschool teacher at the University of Hawai'i- Mānoa for over 20 years. I worked hard to provide a high-quality educational program for my families and students. I know from my experience and those of my graduating families that the high quality school experience they had, as four and five year olds were crucial to how these children succeeded in school. I have so many accounts of parents and grandparents returning to me saying the preschool and pre-k experience I crafted were critical to the successes inside and outside the classrooms.

I support HB864, 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 well as helping to develop caring and compassionate citizen of this state. HB864 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also help foster "the whole child" in all areas of development. We all know that just because you are smart doesn't mean you can succeed in life. This bill provides an opportunity for those of us in education to nurture the whole child.

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 families with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

As an educator, I look forward to being able to collaborate with my DOE counterparts to develop a high-quality program for young children as well as being on the forefront of developing appropriate professional development and pre-service teacher training.

This is an opportunity for the early childhood community, K-12 community, higher education, community partners, independent schools, families, and others to come to the table together and work together to our shared and common goal of giving the best to our children.

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

February 1, 2013

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

From: Robyn S. B. Chun

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I appreciate your longstanding policy leadership when it comes to addressing the needs of Hawai'i's youngest keiki as well as your tireless work in the community supporting many of the early childhood organizations and practitioners across a diverse spectrum that are care passionately about young children (birth through 8 years) and their families.

I support HB 864, 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 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would assure that all families statewide would be assured of access to quality early experiences for their keiki.

My work as a teacher in preschools and DOE K-1 classrooms, family child care provider and teacher educator, and my personal experience as a mother of twins, has impressed upon me the importance of providing each child with a meaningful and culturally relevant early experience that will address each child's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development.

The Executive Office on Early Learning has demonstrated it is a partner that works hand-in-hand with families, advocacy agencies and diverse organizations within our early childhood professional 'Ohana. Their work builds upon years of effort on behalf of many groups and will assure that we move forward building on the wisdom and expertise of representatives of our island community and field as we design and implement an early learning system where:

- each young child is assured of a strong foundation to succeed educationally and in life,
- practitioners and organizations working with children and families in our many diverse ECE settings have the support and education they need to foster the growth and development of each child; and,

- families and communities are supported and empowered as partners in assuring their keiki succeed as lifelong learners and contributing members of our communities and society.

Furthermore, the Executive Office on Early Learning has been a critical partner, building a foundation for collaboration across many agencies and departments so that children and families experience continuity of experiences and do not fall through the gaps as they move from one period of childhood to another. This bill assures that they will continue to coordinate efforts with other agencies in a manner that will serve the needs of young children and families. In my work life, I will look forward to collaborating with the EOEL.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their wellbeing from the start. This measure lays the groundwork for helping Hawaii's families provide their keiki during the early childhood years (birth through age 8 years). It assures that there is leadership that listens to and reflects the needs, wisdom, and expertise of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Sincerely yours,

Robyn S. B. Chun  
Early Childhood Teacher Educator



January 31, 2013

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

From: Levani Lipton, MPH, MPA

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am here to support HB864, 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. I attended Seagull Elementary in its early years when it was based in Waimanalo. I know that preschool set me on strong path. I've been fortunate with my education, which has given me the opportunity to work all over the world with international organizations. I'm testifying because I want all children in Hawai'i to have the same opportunity to advance their education, career development and aspirations. This bill represents more than a change to our educational structure; it is a direct investment in the future of our state.

Bill HB864 is important because it gives every child a chance at academic success and would promote healthy socio-cognitive development. We know that children who go to preschool not only have better social skills once they arrive in kindergarten but they are better prepared at grasping concepts. If a teacher has the majority of her kindergarten class meeting the same standard upon entering school the teacher doesn't have to play catch up. More importantly, she can work to advance the academic knowledge of these children. Prioritizing a statewide early childhood education program would foster exceptional physical and emotional development.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society. I envision a Hawaii flourishing with social enterprises and local start-ups initiated by individuals who grow up in Hawaii and where we have scientists and environmental advocates setting the precedent for the rest of the world. This must begin when children are in preschool. HB864 is the foundation and the first step to increase access for parents many of whom struggle or work two jobs to have their children attend these essential programs. It has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs. My grandfather always told me that education is the most important thing. It is a significant investment we can all make and a responsibility that we have not only as stewards of the 'aina, but as fostering the next generation into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864.

Sincerely,  
Levani Lipton

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 3:11 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** tinabartys@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB864 on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM

**HB864**

Submitted on: 1/31/2013

Testimony for EDN on Feb 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tina Ahching        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: February 1, 2013 To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair House Committee on Education From: Tina Ahching Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION Honorable Chairs & Committee Members: I support HB864, 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 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. From age 0-5 is the most critical brain development phase of our Keiki. Please pass this bill on behalf of our Keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB864.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 1, 2013

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

From: Cherie Yamashiroya (Pre-K Teacher at KCAA Preschools of Hawaii Na Lei)

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Christy Ryan

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From: Pauline Lilinoe (Keliipio) Young

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

February 1, 2013

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

From Tracy Ruggiero, M.Ed., BCBA

Re: HB 864 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support HB864, 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 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.

Sincerely,  
Tracy Ruggiero, M.Ed., BCBA



February 1, 2013

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ono, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education  
From: Lynn Cabato, HCAP Head Start Director

Re: HB 864 Relating to Early Childhood Education

Honorable Chairs and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB 864, which establishes a statewide Early Childhood Education in Hawaii. Decades of rigorous research proves that investing in quality early education yields substantial returns in higher educational attainment, improved health outcomes, and economic prosperity. Children who participate in early childhood education programs who develop skills are less likely to need special education services or drop out of school and are more likely to become productive members of the workforce.

Early childhood education is one of the most cost-effective public investments we can make. For all our children, especially low-income, these programs help ensure success in school, work, and life. These programs are critical for parents, too, both to increase their participation in the workforce and provide them with support and information to enhance their own parenting. Parents depend on these programs to continue working.

Early care and education is being recognized as an important economic sector in its own right, and as a critical piece of social infrastructure that supports children's development and facilitates parents' employment. Investments in quality childcare and early childhood education do more than pay significant returns to children-our future citizens. They also benefit taxpayers and enhance economic vitality.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 864.