



February 11, 2013  
3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 325

**LATE**

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

**RE: HB 875 – Relating to Exemptions from Child Care Licensing**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kawakami, and 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. The Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS), referred to in HB 875, and last year in SB 2800, operates under the auspices of HAIS as one of its standing committees, charged with the licensing of Hawaii's private elementary and secondary schools, including early education programs at such schools.

**HAIS is in support of HB 875** which allows a child care program licensed by the United States Department of Defense and the Hawaii Council of Private Schools to be exempt from licensing by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Furthermore, the bill requires each child care program licensed by the HCPS to submit an application for an exemption from DHS that demonstrates HCPS's licensing standards "meet or exceed" the department's standards.

In the report of the Conference Committee concerning Act 163 of the 2012 Legislative Session, dated April 27, 2012, it is stated that "Your Committee on Conference finds that as kindergartens, schools, or child care programs are already licensed by the Charter School Review Panel, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools, federal agencies, or counties that administer them, there is no sufficient justification for the Department of Human Services to also license these kindergartens, schools, and child care programs."

Currently, we are working with DHS, the Governor's office and other stakeholders to develop a process for the HCPS exemption. It is the consensus of all the parties involved to develop a process that exceeds the current licensing standards and implements safeguards for Hawaii's youngest learners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**LATE**

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

February 11, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 875 - RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD CARE  
LICENSING**

Hearing: Monday, February 11, 2013; 3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 875 is to allow a child care program licensed by the United States Department of Defense and the Hawaii Council of Private Schools to be exempt from licensing by the Department of Human Services.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill. This bill will clarify the exemptions passed in the 2012 Legislative Session amending section 346-152(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes, for any kindergarten, school, or program licensed or certified by the Department of Education, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS), or the United States Department of Defense from child care licensing by the Department of Human Services.

The kindergartens, schools, or child care programs to be exempted are already licensed or certified by the United States Department of Defense and located on federal property. The licensing and certification standards of the United States Department of

Defense exceed the DHS standards. Also, the DHS does not have jurisdiction over child care programs located on federal property. It is an administrative burden for the Department to also license these programs which are already licensed or certified by another entity.

Additionally, this bill clarifies that a child care program licensed by HCPS shall apply for an exemption with the DHS and must provide evidence that HCPS licensing standards meet or exceed those of the Department, including the monitoring component. The DHS has agreed to work with the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) and the HCPS to provide technical assistance in the development of standards for their child care programs.

In order for a child care program licensed by the HCPS to be exempt from licensure by the Department of Human Services, the child care program must apply and show evidence that the licensing standards of the HCPS meet or exceed the licensing standards of the Department of Human Services, and that the standards include a monitoring system that ensures compliance with the standards.

If the child care program requesting the exemption cannot demonstrate that the HCPS standards meet or exceed those of the Department, the Department shall have the discretion to deny the application for exemption and continue to license the child care program.

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