



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
H.B. 913, Relating to Early Learning Wellness Guidelines
By Terry Lock, Director

House Committee on Education
House Committee on Health
February 6, 2013
2:00 p.m., Room 309

Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, Chair Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committees:

Aloha, I am Terry Lock, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of House Bill 913.

EOEL is charged with coordinating efforts on behalf of young children by creating partnerships and alignment of policies and programs to achieve improved outcomes in health, safety, and school readiness and success. Over the past year, EOEL has engaged partners across the state to define the desired outcomes for children and families, as well as the critical strategies to achieve those outcomes, which should be prioritized over the next three to five years. This work – the Hawaii Early Childhood Action Strategy – is described in *Taking Action for Hawaii's Children*, which can be found at earlylearning.hawaii.gov.

One of the priorities in the Action Strategy is the development of early childhood health and wellness guidelines by EOEL, in conjunction with its partners in child health and safety. The intent is to incorporate the guidelines into the early learning program established by EOEL and put into place a procedure to embed the guidelines into other early childhood settings. The guidelines would be linked to the efforts of the Obesity Prevention Task Force and thereby incorporate nutrition and physical activity, as well as extend to areas of child development and infant mental health and include the establishment of medical and dental homes.

H.B. 913 would require the establishment of non-binding early learning wellness guidelines applicable to all programs and services of the early learning system. We recommend that the guidelines extend beyond nutrition and physical activity.

EOEL looks forward to working with the Department of Health and the Obesity Prevention Task Force to improve health, development, and early learning outcomes for children ages 0-8. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

Date: 02/06/2013

Committee: House Education
House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0913 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS
GUIDELINES

Purpose of Bill: Establishes non-binding early childhood education and care program wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed early childhood and childcare programs.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 913. It is important for early childhood programs to promote the development of healthy young children by providing good nutrition, and by offering physical activity and other learning opportunities that contribute to school readiness and a successful future.

The Department is poised to work with the Department of Health in their efforts to establish early learning wellness guidelines.



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

February 6, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 913 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS
GUIDELINES**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 6, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 913 is to establish early learning wellness guidelines for young children who attend early learning systems programs, including childhood programs to increase formation of healthy habits early in life.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) acknowledges the efforts of the Legislature to seek measures to promote children's health and wellness and to prevent obesity in Hawaii's children. The DHS, however, has serious concerns about this proposed measure as it is currently written. This measure proposes statutory requirements for the Department of Health to be placed under HRS §346, Department of Human Services. The Department believes that the

appropriate placement for this measure is the Department of Health as is indicated in the language of the bill.

The Department also concurs with the Department of Health's proposed amendment that this measure should be a session law. The DHS will participate in the Department of Health's discussions on developing the wellness guidelines.

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



HAWAI'I PACIFIC HEALTH

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Wednesday, February 6, 2013 – 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

The House Committee on Education

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

**Re: HB 913 Relating to Early Learning Wellness Guidelines
Testimony in Strong Support**

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). HPH is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Pali Momi Medical Center, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital on Kauai. HPH is committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 49 outpatient clinics and service sites, more than 5,400 employees and 1,300 physicians on staff,

I am writing in strong support of HB 913 which seeks to establish non-binding early childhood education and care program wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed early childhood and childcare programs. This bill is part of a comprehensive approach to obesity as recommended by the Childhood Obesity Prevention Task Force which was formed based upon ACT 269.

Childhood obesity is on the rise. Early childhood education and care programs should provide safe and healthy play and learning environments that are conducive to the wellbeing of young children. These programs can play an integral part in children's development through good nutrition, physical activity and other learning opportunities that contribute to school readiness and a successful future. This measure thus provides a means of lessening the problem of childhood obesity and the resulting health problems.

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



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health



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

February 5, 2013

Senator Takumi and Senator Belatti
Chair of the Education and Health – State Capitol

RE: HB 913 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINE
Establishes non-binding early childhood education and care program wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed early childhood and childcare programs.

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

The Community Children's Councils (CCCs) **supports** HB 913, which establishes goals for nutritious foods, health education, physical activity, and other activities designed to promote childhood wellness.

All children need to be healthy and well in order to benefit from their education. In order for this to be happen, guidelines must be established so the information that is disseminated is uniform and there is consistency.

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 6, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND HEALTH

RE: HB 913 – Relating to Early Learning Wellness Guidelines

Chairs Takumi and Belatti, Vice Chairs Ohno and Morikawa, and the members of the committees,

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 HB 913 which establishes non-binding early childhood education and care program wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed early childhood and childcare programs.

HB 913 supplements the three House Measures (HB 864, HB 862, and HB 853) which, taken together, articulate the policy landscape needed to implement Governor Abercrombie’s “Early Learning Program.” The provisions in **HB 913** assure the existence of a rigorous philosophical framework for developmentally appropriate program design. HB 913 assures a robust and research-based approach to and definition of “school readiness” capable of guiding all efforts made on behalf of the Early Learning Program. To say it another way, “wellness” must be a foundational dimension of “school readiness,” and of the Governor’s new initiative.

Research shows that early learning programs play essential parts in young children’s development by offering appropriate social, emotional, and intellectual learning opportunities including such basics as good nutrition, plenty of free and structured play, ample amounts of physical exercise, creative endeavors, both individual and group activities, and more, all contributing to school readiness and successful futures. By developing guidelines that will be consistent with current department of education wellness guidelines, healthy living and learning will be promoted and supported in Hawaii’s public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 5, 2013

TO: Chair Roy Takumi
Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno
House Committee on Education

Chair Della Au Belatti
Vice-Chair Dee Morikawa
House Committee on Health

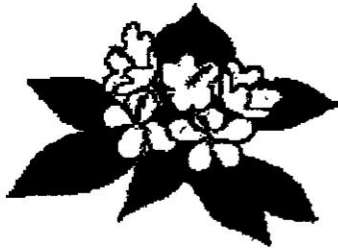
FROM: Deborah Zysman
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB 913:** Relating to Early Learning and Wellness Guidelines

The Good Beginnings Alliance **supports HB 913**, which seeks to develop and adopt early learning wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed and license-exempt early learning programs. The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is a policy and advocacy organization focused on ensuring that Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe, and ready for school. We strive to support our stakeholder community to this end, as well as provide relevant information to our families and fellow advocate community.

GBA welcomes the chance to work with fellow identified stakeholders to develop and adopt appropriate and meaningful guidelines for early learning programs operating in Hawaii. Our state has shown increasing commitment to improving policies that guide the health and wellness for our youth –most recently with the establishment of the Childhood Obesity Task Force; this measure will continue that trend for the youngest in our community. The measure aims to develop guidelines that will address unacceptable health trends in our state's juvenile population, including some of the highest rates of juvenile diabetes (American Diabetes Association), high rates of consumption of sugar sweetened beverages, and low rates of juvenile physical activity (Centers for Disease Control, 2012).

We see this measure as a critical step in the broader context of early childhood health and education which, the Legislature and current Administration have made a priority. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 913.



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

February 6, 2013

**Special Education
 Advisory Council**

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 Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
 Chair*

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 Ms. Cassandra Bennett
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 Ms. Stacey Oshio
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 Ms. Barbara Pretty
 Ms. Kau'i Rezendes
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 Dr. Daniel Ulrich
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Jan Tateishi, Staff
 Susan Rocco, Staff

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

RE: HB 913 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS
 GUIDELINES

Dear Chairs Takumi and Belatti and Members of the Committees,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), supports HB 913 that establishes wellness guidelines for licensed early childhood and childcare programs to follow in serving young children.

There is a large and growing body of research that links physical activity and nutrition in early childhood to a readiness for learning. Children who suffer from poor nutrition during the early years of brain development score significantly lower on reading and math assessments. Physical activity also plays an important role in a student's academic performance, as well as physical and mental health.

This bill lists representatives from key constituencies to develop these guidelines. SEAC would like to suggest that the Committee also consider including the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council, the advisory body under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, to ensure that the needs of young children with disabilities are represented.

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

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

Mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

HB 913
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINES

House Committees on Health and Education

Public Hearing – February 6, 2013
2:00pm., State Capitol, Conference Room 309

By
Jay Maddock, Ph.D.

I am writing to **support** HB 913. This bill establishes non-binding early childhood education and care program wellness guidelines for young children who attend licensed early childhood and childcare programs

I am a professor of public health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and have served as director of the Office of Public Health Studies since 2006. I also served as a member of the Childhood Obesity Taskforce that submit a draft of this bill as part of our comprehensive approach to address obesity in Hawaii. My statement on this measure does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Obesity is a major public health problem in Hawaii. It contributes to premature death and disease and contributes significantly to the health care costs in the state, which are paid for by businesses and taxpayers. Comprehensive approaches are necessary to combat the obesity epidemic. There is no one magic bullet or thing that can be done to change the doubling of the obesity rate over the past two decades. However, prevention of obesity especially in early childhood is much more effective than treatment of obesity.

These guidelines are simply good practice. They will provide strong, evidence-based guidance to childcare facilities and help change the norm around nutrition and physical activity among our young children. As a parent of a 4 year old enrolled in preschool this is an issue that hits home. I am lucky that my son attends the excellent University of Hawaii pre-school where health and wellbeing is a focus. This bill will help ensure that all children enrolled in early childhood programs will get this healthy start to life.