



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Health

**HCR176, ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH EARLY
LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINES**

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

March 27, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of this resolution as it
2 includes initiatives supportive of children who are healthy and ready to learn.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** There will be resources needed to develop the Early Learning Wellness
4 Guidelines and to implement and monitor the Guidelines once developed.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of HCR176 is to develop a Task Force to develop Early
6 Learning Wellness Guidelines that will be used in the Executive Office on Early Learning early learning
7 system programs and services. DOH recognizes the important role that early care and education
8 programs can play in educating children and families and staff members on the importance of obesity
9 prevention through physical activity and nutrition. Early childhood programs not only work with the
10 children in their care and can provide opportunities for teaching and modeling healthy eating choices
11 and behaviors, but because of their ability to work with families, they can help support parents and
12 families encourage these healthy practices at home. Early childhood providers can also learn about
13 healthy behaviors to promote their own health and well-being. In this way, children and families and
14 their communities can benefit from early learning wellness guidelines and prevent obesity which leads

1 to other chronic diseases. DOH appreciates the intent of the resolution and looks forward to working
2 with partners for the health and well-being of all people in Hawaii.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

Date: 03/27/2013

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: HCR 176/HR 143 ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH
EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINES

Purpose of Resolution: Task Force; Development of Early Learning Wellness Guidelines

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports these resolutions and is poised to work with both the Executive Office on Early Learning and the Department of Health's Healthy Hawaii Initiative team in their efforts to establish early learning wellness guidelines and to share the Department's established wellness guidelines for the promotion and support of healthy learning environments in Hawaii's public schools.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
H.C.R. 176 / H.R. 143, Establishing a Task Force to Establish Early Learning Wellness Guidelines
By Terry Lock, Director

House Committee on Health
March 27, 2013
10:00 a.m., Room 329

Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Terry Lock, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of House Concurrent Resolution 176 and House Resolution 143.

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.C.R. 176 / H.R. 143 would establish a task force to establish early learning wellness guidelines. EOEL supports this resolution but would like to note that we have already planned to convene a cross-sector team to work on the development of these guidelines through our Action Strategy efforts, which would fulfill the purpose of these resolutions.

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.



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Wednesday, March 27, 2013 -- 10:00 am
Conference Room 329

The House Committee on Health

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

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

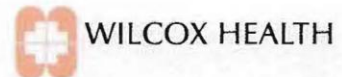
**Re: HCR 176/ HR 143 Establishing a Task Force To Establish Early Learning
Wellness Guidelines
Testimony in Strong Support**

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 HCR 176 and HR 143 which seek to establish a task force to establish early childhood learning wellness guidelines for young children.

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. Establishing early learning wellness guidelines will increase the likelihood that young children will adopt healthy habits early in life. This measure is a helpful first step toward the lessening of the problem of childhood obesity and other health problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.





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Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013

Subject: HCR 176 / HR 143 ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO ESTABLISH EARLY LEARNING WELLNESS GUIDELINES

HAEYC supports HCR 176 / HR 143 establishing a task force to establish early learning wellness guidelines.

We acknowledge the vision and courage it takes for legislators to enact laws that will come to fruition after they leave office. Investing in early childhood development and education will be your lasting legacy.

HAEYC is a professional membership organization of early childhood development and educational professionals, with nearly a 1,000 members across the state of Hawaii. We 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@hawaiiieyc.org.

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



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

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Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

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March 27, 2013

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Advisory Council**

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Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
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Dr. Daniel Ulrich
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Jan Tateishi, Staff
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Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HCR 176/HR 143 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
WELLNESS GUIDELINES

Dear Chair Belatti and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** HCR 176 and HR 143 that establish a task force to develop early learning wellness guidelines for all programs and services of the State's early learning system.

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 resolution 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. SEAC is also available to provide information regarding the needs of preschoolers with disabilities.

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