

LATE



SB1084 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
House Committee on Finance

April 2, 2013

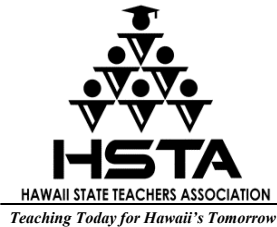
2:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) administration will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** SB1084 SD1 HD1. This bill amends the state constitution to allow the appropriation of public funds for private early education programs.

Recent research overwhelmingly shows that children, families, communities, and societies can expect high returns later when investments are made in early childhood education. Children who attend preschool are more likely to graduate from high school, commit fewer crimes, and hold jobs with higher earnings. However, preschool spaces are limited, competitively filled, and highly priced. Many Hawaiian families find it difficult to secure for their keiki the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development which has been shown to better prepare children for college and careers and generally enhance success later in life. By prioritizing early education for underserved and at-risk children, the State acknowledges that its responsibility to provide good education begins before kindergarten and extends to all children of Hawai'i.

This constitutional amendment is necessary to establish an early learning program that utilizes the well-developed private system of early learning schools in Hawai'i. For these reasons, OHA's administration urges the committee to **PASS** SB1084. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



LATE

1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 02, 2013

RE: S.B. 1084, S.D. 1, H.D. 1 - PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X,
SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE
APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **is opposed to SB 1084, SD1, HD1** to use public taxpayer funds to pay for private early childhood education.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association (NEA), the HSTA affirms its strong commitments to promoting the cause of public education, preserving the principle of separation of church and state, protecting the economic security of public education employees, and lastly achieving racial integration in the public schools and preventing desegregation.

As adopted by the NEA 2000 Representative Assembly consistent with these commitments, NEA and HSTA is opposed to any privatization or subcontracting program that:

1. Has the potential to reduce the resources that otherwise would be available to achieve and/or maintain the system of quality public education or the potential to other wise negatively impact public education.
2. Allows public funds to be used for religious education or other religious purposes, or otherwise weakens the wall of separation between church and state.
3. Places the economic security of public education employees at risk without regard to individual job performance so that the services in question can be performed by public sector employees.

Per the NEA, the definition of vouchers is any form of public payment to help parents send their children to private school, including religious schools. They may take the form of direct payments to parents from organizational designated as beneficiaries for tax credit contributions. Voucher supporters prefer these alternative terms because they know that the very word "voucher" costs them public support.

As such, proposed S.B. 1084, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, may differ in eligibility funding levels and regulations, but ultimately each paves the way to a two-tiered school system funded by public tax dollars but lack public oversight.

Pursuant to Act 178, starting with the 2014-2015 school year, this bill addresses only children identified as the "gap group" Junior Kindergarten program that will no longer be available.

Public education is the foundation of our democracy. NEA and HSTA are committed to the concept that great public schools are the civil right of every child. Vouchers will never provide every child with access to a great school.

HSTA welcomes an opportunity to work with the legislature and the Governor's office to craft language that strengthens the process of supporting early education that does not include the use of vouchers

As such, HSTA supports early childhood programs but is strongly **opposed** to a constitutional amendment to permit the State to use public funds to benefit private early childhood education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

April 2, 2013

House Committee on Finance
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, 2013
State of Hawaii

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

2:00 PM, Room 308
Hawaii State Capitol

FROM: The Early Learning Advisory Board

RE: SENATE BILL 1084, SD1, HD1, 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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1084, SD1, HD1. The Early Learning Advisory Board would like to offer testimony in support of SB 1084 and the Legislature's efforts to enhance early education opportunities across the state.

Established under Act 178 (2012), the Early Learning Advisory Board replaced the Early Learning Council and is responsible for advising the Executive Office on Early Learning, providing recommendations to the Executive Office on Early Learning, promoting collaboration among state agencies, and being an independent voice for the overall well-being of Hawaii's children.

SB 1084, SD1, HD1, proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law. The Early Learning Advisory Board strongly supports this measure as a necessary step to allow the Executive Office on Early Learning to contract with private early childhood education programs. The private sector has been a large supporter of Hawaii's early childhood education efforts and continues to provide high-quality services for our families. The private sector offers a quality interim solution to allow the public sector to develop their early learning capacity and in the long-term, a strong partnership remains to serve the children of Hawaii. Passage of SB 1084, SD1, HD1, would allow for the creation of this public-private partnership for the benefit of our young children as they prepare on their educational path.

We strongly support advancing this bill and look forward to working collaboratively and proactively with the legislature and the broader community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Early Learning Advisory Board



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

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2013

Subject: SB 1084, SD1, HD1, 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

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports SB 1084, SD1, HD1. This is a new era for young keiki and their 'ohana in Hawai'i, and this bill and its subsequent actions will help build the infrastructure of early childhood education in Hawai'i.

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@hawaiihaeyc.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.

HAEYC's position statement on early childhood program quality can be found on the following page.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC



HAEYC POSITION STATEMENT ON EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM QUALITY 2013

Hawai'i AEYC's mission is to promote, support and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and service for Hawai'i's children (Birth-8) and their families.

Vision: HAEYC is the leading voice for high quality early learning opportunities for all children in the state of Hawai'i.

HAEYC supports for all children and families:

- Access to adequate nutrition, shelter, and health care
- Access to child development information and family support

Substantial research indicates that *high quality* early childhood programs are what make a lasting difference in children, especially children at risk. Quality: Excellence, superiority (Webster's dictionary)

Indicators of quality in early childhood programs:

Children:

- Have positive experiences in the setting they're in (center-based, family child care, family-child interaction learning)
- Have opportunity for PLAY indoors and out
- Have positive relationships with the adults in the program

Teachers:

- Build warm, responsive relationships with children and families
- Know child development information that they apply to their work
- Have administrative and specialist's support when facing challenging behaviors with children or adults
- Know the community resources available and refer families as appropriate
- Have access to ongoing professional development
- Are equitably compensated for their education, experience, and effectiveness

Families:

- Have access to child development information to strengthen their role as the primary influence in their child's life.
- Are kept informed, updated, and included on their child's progress
- Have access to community resources that can provide support in their specific situation
- Are acknowledged and supported as the primary influence in their child's life

Program administrators:

- Have access to financial and community resources that leverage and maximize impact on children and families.
- Have access to ongoing professional development grounded in best practices
- Understand and support the importance of the administrator's role in implementing high quality programs.

LATE

INPEACE- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture

TESTIMONY

**SBs 1084 SD1 HD1, 1093 SD2 HD1, and 1095 SD2 HD1,
RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION and SCHOOL READINESS**

Testimony Presented Before

House Finance Committee

April 2, 2013, in Conference Room 308 @ 2:00 pm

by Dr. Kanoe Nāone, Chief Executive Officer, INPEACE

INPEACE, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, **supports** SBs 1084 SD1 HD1, 1093 SD2 HD1, and 1095 SD2 HD1.

We know that 85% of the brain is developed by the time children turn 5. As a former Department of Education elementary teacher and as a mother I have seen the benefits of early education and what happens when children don't have access to quality learning. The single largest impact on the well-being of our K-12 system is access to early childhood education. By providing families especially those in low income areas, access to early learning we can dramatically and positively shift the well-being of the children in those schools and areas. We believe an equitable early learning system is of critical importance to the success of our children and the economic future of our state. The elimination of Junior Kindergarten will affect more than 5,100 children in our communities, with the largest impact being on those most at risk and who will not have access to preschool or early education before entering kindergarten.

Working with multiple organizations and agencies to offer a range of early learning programs that meet different needs and values will ensure that our efforts serve the community more broadly and support the success of our most at-risk children. We support a system that provides families with culturally responsive, high-quality early learning opportunities that enables healthy, successful development, and the ability of each child to reach their full potential. Children are born ready to learn with minds shaped by experiences and environments in the first five years of life. Studies continue to prove that children who do not attend early learning programs are more likely to fall behind in school, dropout from high school and earn less in the workforce.

INPEACE is a non-profit, educational organization that annually serves more than 4,500 children, parents and community members through its early childhood and workforce development programs on five different islands. The work of INPEACE over the past 19 years has been extensive and progressive in Hawai'i, particularly within communities that do not otherwise have access to the services it provides. On a daily basis, we see the critical role early learning plays in the economic wellbeing of communities, especially those in areas where poverty is prevalent. We also have statistically significant educational outcomes for the children in our programs making it a viable option for school readiness.



LATE

Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 2, 2013 2:00 pm

by
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean
Dr, Joe Peters

**SB 1084 SD1 HD1
Relating to Early Childhood Education**

Chairperson Luke, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of SB 1084 SD1 HD1** to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs.

The Education Division at Chaminade University supports **SB 1084 SD 1 HD1** to put the question "Shall the appropriation of public funds be permitted for the support or benefit of private early childhood education programs, as provided by law?" on the ballot to amend the constitution. Although some may argue against providing funds to non-public entities in order to maintain the separation of church and state, the goal is to allow *any* program that complies with the rules, religious or otherwise, to provide early childhood programs. The providers who would qualify have the infrastructure and quality teaching force in place to provide our children with the early learning support they need to be fully ready for successful transition into our elementary schools. Establishing a parallel system in the public schools would be an unjustifiable use of public funding considering the overall savings of using existing successful providers, as well as the precedents set in other states that allow for similar support of non-public education providers.

Additionally, we support the following joint position statement of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee.

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.



Dr. Joseph Peters
Dean, Education Division
Chaminade University
3140 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
Phone: (808) 735-4844
Fax: (808) 739-4607
Email: joseph.peters@chaminade.edu



April 1, 2013

LATE TESTIMONY

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance
State Capitol of Hawaii
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

I write to express my endorsement of Senate Bill 1093 SD2 HD1. As president of a university that trains current and future Hawai'i teachers, I fully support the creation of an early learning school readiness program to provide our island keiki with the right framework to ensure their chances of success in kindergarten and throughout their educational journey. This will ultimately prepare them for productive careers and lives in our community and society more broadly.

The change in kindergarten entry age beginning in school year 2014, which requires that a child must be 5 years old by July 31 of the school year, will create a gap group of nearly 5200 children. These children will be denied critical services if this School Readiness Program is not put into place. I very much hope your committee will work to ensure this gap does not occur.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Bannister'.

Geoffrey Bannister, Ph.D.
President



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®
The House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh Legislature, 2013
State of Hawai'i

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2013
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 308
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: **SENATE BILL 1084, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1, OF THE HAWAI'I STATE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT THE APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PRIVATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1084, SD1, HD1. Kamehameha Schools supports the efforts of the legislature to enhance the early education opportunities across the state and would like to offer testimony in support of SB 1084, SD1, HD1.

SB 1084 proposes an amendment to the Hawai'i State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs. The private sector has largely supported Hawai'i's early childhood education efforts; we humbly ask for continued support through the funding mechanism outlined in SB 1084, SD1, HD1, to complement private funding of early education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and three-and-four-year-olds at preschool sites statewide. In 2004, the Early Childhood Education division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani Early Childhood Collaborative program. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other preschools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Legislature, the Department of Education and other public and private stakeholders in the community for the benefit of the children of Hawai'i.



First Insurance
Company of Hawaii

A Member of the Tokio Marine Group

LATE

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, April 2, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308**

Senate Bill 1084 SD1 HD1:

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

Senate Bill 1093 SD2 HD1:

Relating to School Readiness

Senate Bill 1095 SD2 HD1:

Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Allen Uyeda, President and CEO of First Insurance Company of Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bills 1084 SD1 HD1, 1093 SD2 HD1, and 1095 SD2 HD1. Data shows that development of the architecture of the brain takes place by age five. By the time children enter kindergarten, we've already missed a critical opportunity to influence their future academic and professional success.

Senate Bill 1093 SD2 HD1:

I fully support the creation of an early learning school readiness program. The change in the DOE kindergarten entry age beginning with the 2014 school year will create a gap group of nearly 5,200 children. These children will be denied critical services if the school ready program is not put into place. At a time when all studies indicate that early childhood programs are critical to a child's development, denying these services would be a severe step backwards for our children. It would also hurt the future of local employers like First Insurance that need skilled and innovative employees to compete in the global marketplace.

Senate Bill 1084 SD1 HD1:

The creation of a public/private delivery system contemplated by this legislation is critical to the development of a high quality early learning system. It will allow us to build on the preschool infrastructure that already exists in Hawaii so that we can meet heightened demand for facilities, ensure program accessibility and give Hawaii families more choices. According to a People's Pulse poll, more than 80% of Hawaii residents believe funding early learning is important. Passage of this bill will allow voters to express their support for early education initiatives.

Senate Bill 1095 SD2 HD1:

A 2008 economic analysis conducted by Good Beginnings Alliance calculated a return of \$4.20 for every \$1 invested in a statewide early childhood education program. This return is based on less spending on special education, grade retention, and future social services – such as incarceration – plus a more productive, higher paid workforce contributing positively to the state economy.

First Insurance believes every child should be given the opportunity to succeed, and that one of the most effective ways to cultivate a strong workforce for the future is through access to quality early education. We support these three bills and the creation of a statewide early childhood education program.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony to the House Committee on Finance

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

Senate Bill 1084 SD1 HD1:

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

Senate Bill 1093 SD2 HD1:

Relating to School Readiness

Senate Bill 1095 SD2 HD1:

Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Lee Morihara, President and Managing Director of Colliers International - Hawaii. I strongly support Senate Bills 1084 SD1 HD1, 1093 SD2 HD1, and 1095 SD2 HD1. There is a great deal of data that shows that focusing on early childhood is critical because development of the architecture of the brain takes place by age five. We need to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. By the time children enter kindergarten, elementary school and high school we are addressing problems and no longer preventing them.

Senate Bill 1093 SD2 HD1

I fully support the creation of an early learning school readiness program. Many of our employees have children in Hawaii's public school system, and helping children, beginning at an early age is the key to making them successful citizens in our businesses and in our community. Our ability to compete in a global economy starts with employees who have been provided the tools to do so and it all begins at a very early age.

The change in kindergarten entry age beginning in school year 2014, which requires that a child must be 5 years old by July 31 of the school year will create a gap group of nearly 5200 children. These children will be denied critical services if this School Readiness Program is not put into place. At a time when all studies indicate that early childhood programs are critical to a child's development, denying these services would be a severe step backwards for our children.

Senate Bill 1084 SD1 HD1:

The creation of a public/private delivery system contemplated by the legislation is critical to the development of a high quality early learning system. As a previous People's Pulse poll has shown, over 80% of Hawaii's residents believe in the importance of funding of early learning. We understand that the Constitutional Amendment is necessary to allow for a quality public/private early childhood education delivery system that would incorporate higher-quality, education focused standards to make a difference in the lives of our young children. We therefore believe it is critical that this bill go forward and allow the voters to express themselves and their support for our children.

Senate Bill 1095 SD2 HD1:

The goal for our young children is the creation of an early childhood education program. Helping our children, beginning at an early age is the key to making them successful citizens in our businesses and in our community. Our ability to compete in a global economy starts with employees who have been provided the tools to do so and it all begins at a very early age.

As business person I understand the high return on investing in children under the age of five which has been well documented nationally and locally. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This return is calculated from less spending on special education, grade retention, and future social services –such as incarceration - plus a more productive, higher paid workforce contributing positively to the state economy.

Our entire management team is concerned about all of our employees and their families. We believe that every child should be given the opportunity to succeed and success is easier to create with early childhood programs that provide each child with a quality education. We fully support all three measures.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Colliers International

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'slm', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Sarah Lee Morihara (S)
President & Managing Director

FINTestimony

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 11:13 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mckameys3@aim.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 2, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole McKamey	Individual	Oppose	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

Testimony of Mallory Fernandez, BSW Intern at the University of Hawaii at Manoa

In support of S.B. 1084 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, S.B. 1093 Relating to School Readiness, and S.B. 1095 Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Green and members of the Education and Human Services Committees:

Good Afternoon. I am in support of SB 1093, SB 1095 and SB 1084.

As a college student, I know how important education is, especially at a young age because that is where the foundation is built for learning. I believe that it is not reasonable that a child be held back a whole year from being admitted into kindergarten because they are born later than July 31. However, since a law will be instated, I believe that it will be important for an Early Childhood Education Program to be enforced, as stated in S.B. 1095. Having a School Readiness Program, as stated in S.B. 1093, will help children to be prepared to enter kindergarten, since a law will be preventing a child from entering kindergarten a year later due to a birth date after July 31. Studies have shown that investment in programs as such as these will help to help increase education; reduce homelessness, crime and substance abuse; improve health and overall well being of a person. Having the option of the Early Childhood Education Program will prevent children from missing out on the learning opportunity because they are going to be held back for one year. Also, not all parents have the funds available to keep a child in childcare or another year of preschool. As stated in S.B. 1084, it will be important that funds be appropriated for the benefit of Early Childhood Education Programs. I urge you to support these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for these bills.