



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony of Governor Neil Abercrombie
In **Support** of
S.B. 1084 S.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
S.B. 1093 S.D. 2, Relating to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 S.D. 2, Relating to Early Childhood Education

House Committee on Education
March 13, 2013
2:00 p.m., Room 309

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

Good afternoon. I am in **strong support of Senate Bill 1084 S.D. 1, Senate Bill 1093 S.D. 2, and Senate Bill 1095 S.D. 2.**

A Critical Need

Investment in early learning in Hawaii helps raise social mobility for our keiki. Early learning helps to address growing economic inequalities and diminishing rates of upward mobility – without it, research indicates that children will be more likely to drop out of school, become a teen parent, be arrested for a violent crime, and never attend college. By investing early, we are setting the foundation that will help strengthen our human capital and economy as well as provide dramatic life changing benefits for our children.

Recognizing the significant returns of such an investment, all but 11 states have already invested in preschool programs over the past decade. But even among the 11 remaining states, there is movement: in Mississippi, which has historically ranked near the bottom of the nation in educational achievement, the governor and legislature are at the cusp of creating the state's first State-funded preschool program. *Hawaii is behind.*

Even the President, and now Sen. Mazie Hirono through her PRE-K bill, have put early learning at the top of their agendas. States may soon be able to access funding in support of early learning through cost-sharing with the federal government. To take advantage of these federal monies, we need to have our State program ready. Hawaii lost out on Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant monies because we did not have an early learning program in place. *We don't want to be behind.*

Background for Legislation

Attached are:

- A summary of the three bills.

- An advice letter from the Department of the Attorney General explaining the need for the Constitutional amendment.

Not School Vouchers

The School Readiness Program and Early Childhood Education Program are not voucher programs: families will not be able to enroll their children in any program of their choice; only those that are contracted by EOEL, that meet the requirements established by EOEL. Also, the Constitutional amendment proposed by S.B. 1084 S.D. 1 is narrowly crafted to be specific to early childhood education programs and allow the Legislature to retain control.

Separation of Church and State

These programs, and the Constitutional amendment, will not change the separation of church and State. However, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL), through which the programs would be administered, would like to work with faith-based programs (estimated to be less than 30% of Hawaii's licensed preschools) to bring them into the State's early learning system as much as possible.

Despite the general nationwide prohibition on use of state funds to pay for religious instruction, states including Illinois have faith-based providers who have chosen to participate in their state-funded program. In our consultations with Ounce of Prevention, a national organization that works with other states to advocate for access to quality early childhood experiences, we have found that many families choose to enroll their children in faith-based programs with the expectation that during the non-state funded portion of the day, their children will receive religious instruction. In South Dakota, although some faith-based providers chose not to participate in the state-funded program, many of them, including the Catholic diocese, recognized that the state could fill the role they could not fill themselves as part of their belief in the power of preschool to improve child outcomes and the overall community.

Helping K-12

An early learning program that aligns with the K-12 system is key to ensuring that more children are going to school prepared and ready to learn. Early learning feeds into an educational pipeline, assisting with improving student outcomes in grades K-12.

Proposed Amendments for S.B. 1093 S.D. 2

- We support the amendment included in H.B. 862, H.D. 1, to include license-exempt child care programs as eligible providers in the School Readiness Program.
- We note that page 5, lines 13-15, may be unnecessary as the definition of at-risk children, who are specified as a priority group to be served by the programs, already includes children whose family income is "no more than two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level" (HRS section 302L-1).

This is my highest priority. Please don't let 3,500 children go without early learning services in 2014 due to the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age mandated by the Legislature. Please don't let Hawaii be the last state to establish an early learning program to help ensure our children's success in life.

I urge you to support these bills. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My staff are here to answer any questions you may have.

Summary of 2013 Legislation

The Governor's legislative package includes three bills that are specific to the development of an effective, high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children. All of these bills are critical to the immediate and long-term plans of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL).

- **Constitutional Amendment (S.B. 1084)**

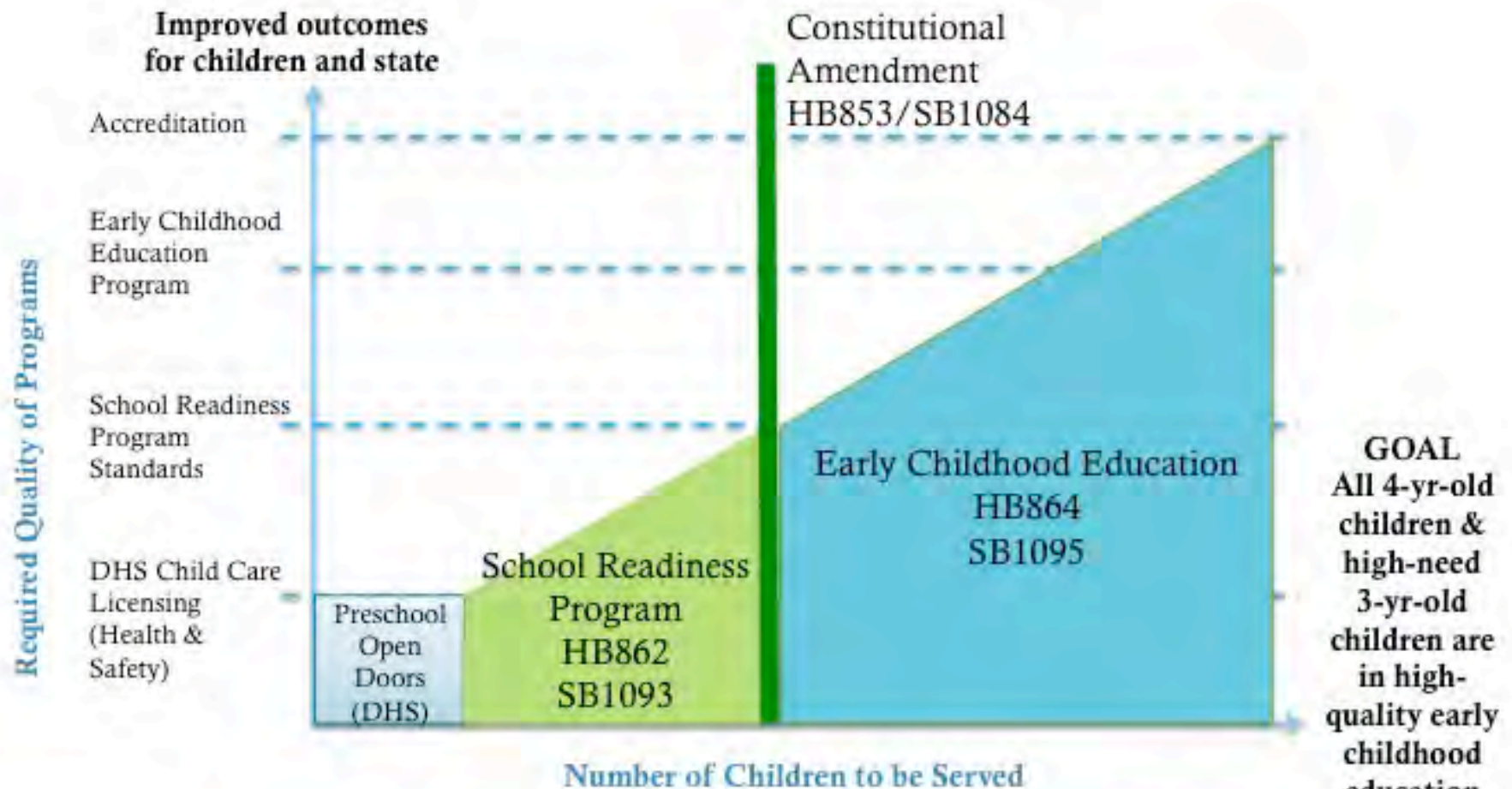
- We believe it is necessary to include the state's existing network of private preschools, which:
 - Make up the backbone of the state's preschool services (expertise and available capacity); and
 - Have a clear educational purpose (explicit educational goals and standards will result in the higher-quality services that will help us achieve the outcomes we need to make a difference for our keiki and our state).
- To do this, the Attorney General says a ConAm is required to address the State's prohibition on private preschools receiving public funds.
- Bill proposes a ConAm to allow public funds to be appropriated "for the support or benefit of private early childhood education programs as provided by law." The amendment is narrowly crafted to be specific to early childhood education programs, maintain the prohibition on vouchers for K-12 education, and allow the Legislature to retain control.
- Only when voters ratify the ConAm will we be able to implement the Early Childhood Education Program and develop an effective, high-quality early learning system.
- Once we realized the Constitutional roadblock to implementing the original plan, we added phases to the plan.

- **Phase 1 - Establishment of the School Readiness Program (S.B. 1093)**

- What can be implemented now, without a ConAm.
- Designed to serve about 3,500 late-born four-year-olds whose kindergarten entry will be delayed until the 2015-2016 school year due to the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age that was mandated by the Legislature.
- Delivered through contracts with DHS-licensed child care programs and DOE, that meet quality standards established by EOEL.
- Allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten by focusing more on socialization skills.
- Establishes the infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.
- Start date: Fall 2014.

- **Phase 2 - Establishment of the Early Childhood Education Program (S.B. 1095)**

- The large, full-scale program that can be implemented only with a ConAm.
- Serves more children: three- and four-year-old children, with priority for fours.
- Delivered through contracts with private early childhood education providers and DOE, that meet quality standards established by EOEL.
- Will help a child with social-emotional development but also intellectual development. Incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment, and teacher quality that can be aligned with 100% of the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards. Tied to educational outcomes. Still developmentally appropriate.
- 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.
- Start date (assuming the ConAm is ratified): Fall 2016.



Timeline

Current –
FY14 ending
6/30/2014

Services to be provided via
contracts for FY15,
beginning 7/1/2014

Nov. 2014
election

Services to be provided via contracts
issued after the Constitutional
amendment

Budget

\$1.2M/yr.
for subsidies

FY14 \$3.5M for startup to support
programs & admin.
FY15 \$22.9M for direct services
(School Readiness) + \$6M to
support capacity building & admin

Future biennium budget
requests.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DAVID M. LOUIE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

RUSSELL A. SUZUKI
FIRST DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
425 QUEEN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
(808) 586-1500

February 12, 2013

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor of Hawai'i
Office of the Governor
State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Need for Amendment to State Constitution to Allow Use of Public Funds
for Private Early Childhood Education Programs

Dear Governor Abercrombie:

This responds to a request from your office to respond to an assertion made by a testifier at legislative hearings on the Administration's proposal seeking an amendment to article X, section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution to permit the use of public funds to support or benefit early childhood programs as provided by law who proclaims that a constitutional amendment is not necessary.

As Governor, you have proclaimed that an early childhood education program deserves a preferred position in our hierarchy of values and is necessary in order for our children to develop to their fullest potential at the formative years of brain development. Through your efforts in 2012, the Legislature enacted Act 178 to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) within your office. As the EOEL began to develop its initiatives and programs which called for private-public partnership in the delivery of its programs, our office advised the EOEL that article X, section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution, which provides, "nor shall public funds be appropriated for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution," poses an impediment to this initiative. With our advice, it was determined that a two-track strategy would be effected where legislation (H.B. No. 862 and S.B. 1093) would be proposed to immediately authorize a school readiness program within the early learning system which would focus on physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development, but will not provide any instructional services that supplant or duplicate the academic program of any public or private school. Because this program would not have a formal and structured academic component we advised that we would be able to defend that it does not violate article X, section 1. However, in order for the EOEL to develop and deliver an early childhood education program that would utilize private providers, H.B. 853 and its companion S.B. No. 1084 proposes the constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be used for private early

childhood education programs as provided by law and H.B. No. 864 and S.B. No. 1095 were proposed as implementing legislation. We advised that a constitutional amendment is necessary in order to obviate constitutional challenges of the use of public funds to pay private providers of early childhood education programs under the statewide early learning system currently being developed pursuant to chapter 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes (Chapter 302L), entitled "Early Learning System."

THE ISSUE PRESENTED AND SHORT ANSWER

The issue presented is whether an amendment to article X, section 1, of the Hawai'i Constitution is necessary in order to permit the use of public funds to pay private providers of early education programs under the statewide early learning system. As previously communicated to your office, article X, section 1 prohibits the appropriation of public funds to support or benefit private educational institutions. Consequently, we advise that an amendment which carves out an exception allowing public monies to be appropriated for the support or benefit of private early childhood education programs is necessary.

BACKGROUND

With respect to the early education bills, and based on our belief that a constitutional amendment is necessary in order to allow the State to use public funds to pay private early childhood education providers, the administration package also contains bills seeking to amend article X, section 1, of the Hawai'i Constitution by carving out a narrow exception that would permit public funds to be used for early childhood education programs (S.B. No. 1084 and H.B. No. 853). Thus, the early education bills are contingent upon the passage of the constitutional amendment bills.

We believe a constitutional amendment is necessary in connection with the program advanced by the early education bills, but not with respect to the program under the school readiness bills. This is due to the differences in the programs. The school readiness program will prepare children for school by addressing their physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development and will not provide any instructional services that supplant or duplicate the academic program of any public or private school. In contrast, the early childhood education program will address all of these needs, plus go the extra step of addressing children's educational needs as well. Specifically, the educational component of the early childhood education program will align with state content and performance standards for grades kindergarten to twelve to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children. Thus, the early childhood education program will have an academic component, while the school readiness program will not. As will be explained more fully below, article X, section 1 applies to "private educational institutions," as opposed to institutions focusing on school readiness skills.

Both the school readiness and early childhood education programs are designed to be a public-private partnership. This means that the State intends to contract with both public and private providers under the programs.

Again, it is the early childhood education program that is at issue here. As noted, we believe a constitutional amendment is needed before the State can use public funds to contract with private providers of early childhood education programs.

DISCUSSION

Article X of the Hawai'i Constitution is entitled "Education." Article X, section 1 states as follows:

Section 1. The State shall provide for the establishment, support and control of a statewide system of public schools free from sectarian control, a state university, public libraries and such other educational institutions as may be deemed desirable, including physical facilities therefore. There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions because of race, religion, sex or ancestry; **nor shall public funds be appropriated for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution**, except that special purpose revenue bonds authorized under section 12 of Article VII may be appropriated to finance or assist:

1. Not-for profit corporations that provide early childhood education and care facilities serving the general public; and
2. Not-for-profit private nonsectarian and sectarian elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities. (Bold and underscore emphasis added).

The foregoing presents a clear constitutional prohibition on the use of public monies to support or benefit private educational institutions. What qualifies as a "private educational institution" is not defined in the Constitution, nor are we aware of any judicial interpretation of that phrase. While it is clear that private kindergarten to grade 12 programs fall within the definition based on the Spears v. Honda decision discussed below, it is less clear with respect to private preschools.

The question then is whether public funds can be used to pay for private providers needed to implement the early childhood education program. It is our understanding that the majority of these early childhood education providers will be private preschools. Thus, if private preschools and other early education providers are deemed to be "private educational institutions" as the phrase is used in article X, section 1, then a constitutional amendment of the type that is

currently before both houses of the Legislature is indeed required. Rather than delivering a program with the constant uncertainty that it may face a legal challenge that it violates article X, section 1, amending article X, section 1 to clearly permit the use of public funds to contract with private providers to deliver some of the early childhood education programs eliminates that legal challenge.

In interpreting a phrase in the Constitution, "[t]he general rule is that, if the words used in a constitutional provision ... are clear and unambiguous, they are to be construed as they are written[.]" Nelson v. Hawaiian Homes Commission, 127 Hawai'i 185, 197, 277 P.3d 279, 291 (2012) (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting Spears v. Honda, 51 Haw. 1, 6, 449 P.2d 130, 134 (1968)). Furthermore, "[t]he words in a constitutional provision are also 'presumed to be used in their natural sense.'" Nelson, 127 Hawai'i at 198 (quoting Employees' Retirement System v. Ho, 44 Haw. 154, 159, 352 P.2d 861, 864 (1960)).

As far as we can tell, the phrase "private educational institution" is not defined in any dictionary. The first term of the phrase, "private," naturally means something other than a public or governmental program, institution, etc. The remaining terms of the phrase, "educational institution," is defined as "an institution dedicated to education," (see Webster-dictionary.org, dictionary.reference.com, thefreedictionary.com), or an "establishment dedicated to educating people" (see babylon.com). Thus, in the natural sense, the phrase "private educational institution" means a private institution (i.e., a non-public or non-governmental institution) that is dedicated to education. Although private preschools participating in the early childhood education program would appear to fit squarely within this natural interpretation of the phrase "private educational institution," this alone does not tell us whether the framers of the Constitution intended such an interpretation.

"In such a situation, we may look to the history of 'the times and the state of being when the constitutional provision was adopted.'" Nelson, 127 Hawai'i at 198 (quoting State v. Kahlbaun, 64 Haw. 197, 202, 638 P.2d 309, 315 (1981)). "In doing so, 'the object sought to be accomplished and the evils sought to be remedied should be kept in mind by the courts.'" Nelson, 127 Hawai'i at 198 (quoting Hawaii Gov't Employees' Ass'n v. County of Maui, 59 Haw. 65, 81, 576 P.2d 1029, 1039 (1978)). "In order to give effect to the intention of the framers and the people adopting a constitutional provision, an examination of the debates, proceedings and committee reports are useful." Nelson, 127 Hawai'i at 198 (quoting Kahlbaun, 64 Haw. at 204, 638 P.2d at 316).

The controlling authority in Hawai'i with respect to interpreting the framers' purpose or intent behind article X, section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution is Spears v. Honda, 51 Haw. 1, 449 P.2d 130 (1968), in which the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional two statutory provisions and an administrative rule which authorized subsidies to private and sectarian school students for bus transportation to and from school. The Spears court determined that the bus subsidies constituted "support or benefit" of private schools in violation of article IX of the

Hawai'i Constitution (article IX was later renumbered to article X during the Constitutional Convention of 1978).

At the outset of this discussion of Spears, we point out that the case is not directly on-point with our situation. First, Spears dealt with the interpretation of the phrase "support or benefit," which is not at issue here. In addition, the case dealt with the constitutionality of a public bus subsidy for private school students, grades kindergarten to grade 12. Notwithstanding this, the decision is highly instructive with respect to the framers' intent behind article X, which can assist us determine whether the phrase "educational institution" also includes private preschools that provide education to children.

In Spears, the need to ensure the success of public schools is expressed as the reason for article X, section 1's prohibition against the use of public funds to support and strengthen private schools. The Hawai'i Supreme Court found that "the intent of the framers of our Constitution regarding the nature of appropriations constituting 'support or benefit' to sectarian and private schools is clear from the proceedings of our Constitutional Convention of 1950[.]" Spears, 51 Haw. at 7. The court noted that the Committee on Education's report presenting article IX to the Committee of the Whole was "permeated with a strong recognition of the importance and unique function of public education in a democratic state, as compared with nonpublic education." Id.¹ The court further noted that the Committee on Education had indicated it was "acting in accordance with the will of the electorate of Hawai'i in placing major emphasis on public education through a separate article on that subject in the Constitution rather than tacking or telescoping it into the article on general welfare." Id. The court believed that the emphasis on public education could be:

[L]argely attributed to the fact that, at that time, nonpublic schools in this jurisdiction were considered better able to provide education than public schools, although the latter had shouldered the burden of educating the bulk of the populace and of assimilating vast numbers of offspring or immigrants into the mainstream of American life, despite somewhat shabby treatment by the legislature.

Spears, 51 Haw. at 7. The court pointed out that "[t]he gap in the quality of education provided by public schools and the quality of education provided by private schools" was still apparent at the time of its decision in Spears. Id. at 7, n. 5.

The Spears court determined that any use of public monies resulting in the building-up or strengthening of a private school is prohibited by Article X. The court explained:

¹ Citing Standing Committee Report No. 52, The Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention Hawaii, Vol. I, 201-206 (1950).

The mechanics of the bus subsidy program at issue indicate that the fears of the framers were well-founded. The subsidy does 'build up, strengthen and make successful' the nonpublic schools. ... Also, ... the subsidy induces attendance at nonpublic schools, where the children are exposed to a curriculum that, in many cases, if not generally, promotes the special interests and biases of the nonpublic group that controls the school. Finally, to the extent that the State pays out funds to carriers owned by the nonpublic schools or agents thereof, the State is giving tangible 'support and benefit' to such schools.

Id. at 12-13.

The Spears court concluded that the bus subsidy violated article X and could not be lawfully reinstated unless the Constitution was amended.

As pointed out by the discussion of the historical bases of our Constitution, this state has tied its own hands regarding appropriations for the 'support or benefit' of nonpublic schools. ... [W]here the Legislature has not been granted the power by the people, under the State Constitution, to pass certain legislation, it cannot validly pass such legislation. Rather, the Legislature must return to the people to ask them to decide whether their State Constitution should be amended to grant the Legislature the power that it seeks[.]

Having decided that the Hawaii Constitution ties the hands of the Legislature and prohibits it from making any appropriation aiding a sectarian or private school, including subsidies for bus transportation, we are compelled to conclude that [the bus subsidy law] violate[s] Article IX, Section 1, to the extent that they authorize appropriations to sectarian and private schools.

Id. at 15 (bracketed language added).

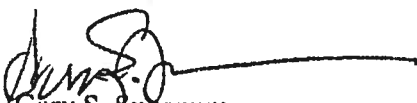
CONCLUSION:

It is clear from the Spears decision that the Hawai'i Supreme Court has determined that the framers' intent behind article X, section 1 was to create a broad prohibition on the use of public monies to benefit or support private schools. Indeed, using public monies merely to subsidize the cost for bus transportation to and from private schools was determined to be prohibited because it would have the effect of building-up, strengthening and making the private schools successful as against the public schools.

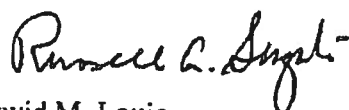
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Under this reasoning, we believe article X, section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution prohibits the use of public funds to pay for private early childhood education programs. As noted above, it is anticipated that the majority of the participating private early childhood education programs will be private preschools. Such private programs would be in direct competition with those public schools that currently have preschool, pre-kindergarten, or junior kindergarten programs.² Using public monies to help build-up and strengthen such private preschools to the detriment of public preschool programs is precisely what the framers intended to prevent. Moreover, public monies going to private preschools that are attached to, or affiliated with, a private K-12 program, could also be deemed to be benefit or support of the attached private K-12 programs. Consequently, we believe an amendment to article X, section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution carving out an exception to permit the use of public funds to pay private providers of early education programs under the statewide early learning system would be needed in order to use public funds to pay for these private providers. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,


Gary S. Sugauma
Deputy Attorney General

APPROVED:


David M. Louie
Attorney General

² Although recently enacted law will repeal junior kindergarten starting in the 2014-2015 school year, there is nothing preventing the legislature from either extending junior kindergarten beyond the current repeal date, or to reinstate the program at some time in the future.



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

House Committee on Education
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chairperson
Representative, Takashi Ohno, Vice Chairperson

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson

Testimony in SUPPORT of the INTENT of SB 1084 SD 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. The Board of Education supports early childhood education as we recognize the importance of establishing a quality early learning system which supports the future success of Hawaii's children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1084 SD 1.



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

Date: 03/13/2013

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

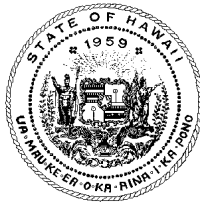
Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1084,SD1 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

Purpose of Bill: Proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law. Effective 7/01/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports early childhood education programs. 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.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TED SAKAI
DIRECTOR

Martha Torney
Deputy Director
Administration

Max Otani
Deputy Director
Corrections

Keith Kamita
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1084, SENATE DRAFT 1, (SSCR 786)
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

by
Ted Sakai, Director
Department of Public Safety

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

Wednesday, March 13, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in **support** of the Governor's Initiative proposing an Amendment to the Hawaii State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs to advance early learning initiatives for the children of Hawaii.

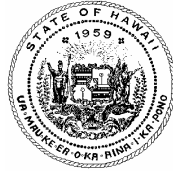
In FY 2012, the report reflected 568 offenders (21%) functioning at an educational level of third grade or less (Adult Basic Education I), 858 (32 %) at fourth to fifth grade level (Adult Basic Education II), 508 (19%) at six to eighth grade level (Adult Basic Education III), 391 (15%) at eight to tenth grade level (Adult Basic Education IV), and 322 (12%) at tenth grade or higher functioning level.

PSD acknowledges that quality early learning development programs provide an invaluable assistance to families in establishing a solid foundation for educational success and career development that result in immediate and long-term benefits for the youth of Hawaii and our community. Numerous correctional research have found the

lack of this foundation to have a direct association with negative social indicators, such as criminality and repeated incarceration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

March 12, 2013

**TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

For Hearing on Wednesday, February 13, 2013
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

Senate Bill No. 1084 Senate Draft 1
Relating to Early Childhood Education/Constitutional Amendment

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSON ROY M. TAKUMI AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 1084 S.D. 1. The measure proposes 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 to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

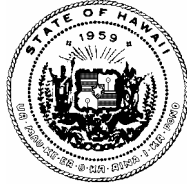
The Department of Human Resources Development strongly supports this bill. We believe the proposed constitutional amendment will provide for a better prepared workforce for the State of Hawai'i.

Keiki who have access to early childhood education programs are better prepared for their continuing education and have a lower incarceration rate. Both of these achievements will help maximize the quality of our future workforce, whether with

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March 12, 2013
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the State of Hawai'i or in the private sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support on S.B.
1084 S.D. 1.



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

March 13, 2013

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1084, S.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**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 13, 2013; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1084, S.D. 1 is to propose 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 to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly 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 and may not be prepared with the skills necessary to be successful

learners when they enter kindergarten. 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.

In order to establish an early learning system in Hawaii and implement the proposed statewide early childhood education program, this Constitutional Amendment is necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony 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

**S.B.1084 S.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**

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

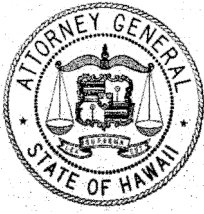
March 13, 2013

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 propose an amendment to the Hawaii
5 State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education
6 programs as provided by law. With the passage of this measure, the voters will decide if public funds
7 should be appropriated for the support of private early childhood education programs to provide an early
8 learning system for the children of Hawaii. The Department of Health promotes family and community
9 well-being and family choice in selecting an array of services to best meet the needs of their children.
10 We look forward to working with the Executive Office on Early Learning in developing a public-private
11 early learning system for children of Hawaii.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1084, S.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.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Russell A. Suzuki, First Deputy Attorney General, or
Gary S. Sukanuma, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill, which is necessary to advance the Governor's initiative for a statewide early childhood education program, a program that the Department also supports.

The early childhood education program under H.B. No. 864 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. This bill seeks to amend article X, section 1, of the Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for State contracts with interested and qualified private providers needed for the early childhood education program.

We understand that there may be concern that the proposed amendment to the Constitution may create a slippery slope to vouchers for K-12 education due to a misunderstanding that the amendment permits vouchers for early childhood education programs. The amendment is not self executing because it contains the words "as provided by law", which expressly reserves to the Legislature the authority to control what types of early childhood education programs will be permitted. The proposed implementing legislation, S.B. No. 1095, S.D. 2, does not propose nor does it intend to permit the use of vouchers for the early childhood education programs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ALII PLACE
1060 RICHARDS STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 547-7400 • FAX: (808) 547-7515

KEITH M. KANESHIRO
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ARMINA A. CHING
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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

March 13, 2013

RE: S.B. 1084, S.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.

RE: S.B. 1093, S.D. 2; RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS.

RE: S.B. 1095, S.D. 2; 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 S.B. 1084, S.D. 1; S.B. 1093, S.D. 2; and S.B. 1095, S.D. 2.

These measures 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 areas 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 S.B. 1084, S.D. 1; S.B. 1093, S.D. 2; and S.B. 1095, S.D. 2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
House Committee on Education
March 13, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

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

**SB 1084 SD1 – 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**

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

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 1084 SD1 that proposes an amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

The University of Hawai'i recognizes the critical importance of early childhood education to lifetime development. Hawai'i must expand the number of children in the state who have access to high quality early childhood education programs, and the state's Department of the Attorney General has deemed that a constitutional amendment is necessary to advance this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony Presented to the
House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:00 pm

by
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean
Dr, Joe Peters

SB 1084 SD 1
Relating to Early Childhood Education

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

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

The Education Division at Chaminade University supports **SB 1084 SD 1** 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.

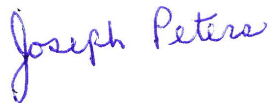
Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing 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.

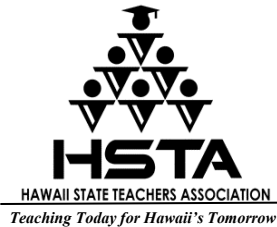
About the TECC

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



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013

RE: S.B. 1084, SD1 – 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 Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is **opposed to SB 1084, SD1** 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 otherwise 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.

4. Has the purpose or effect of causing or maintaining racial segregation in the public schools.

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.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House of Representatives
State of Hawai'i

TO: Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 1084, SD1, 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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1084, SD1. 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.

SB 1084, SD1, 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, to complement private funding of early education.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Ke Ali'i 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 Community-Based Early Childhood Education Division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani family-based 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' Community-Based 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 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.



March 13, 2013

To: Chair Roy Takumi
Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Comments in support of SB 1095 SD1: Relating to Early Childhood Education; SB 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.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of SB 1095 SD2: Relating to Early Childhood Education and SB 1084 SD1: 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. 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. The GBA has over a decade of experience in advocacy and service to our youngest and their families.

Last year the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, legislation creating the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL)(Act 178; 2012). That measure also called for the termination of the existing Department of Education's Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-2015 school year; a pre-Kindergarten program available to late-born four-year-olds that currently serves over 5,000 children statewide.

SB 1095 SD1, would provide crucial direction in the creation of Hawaii's early childhood education program by:

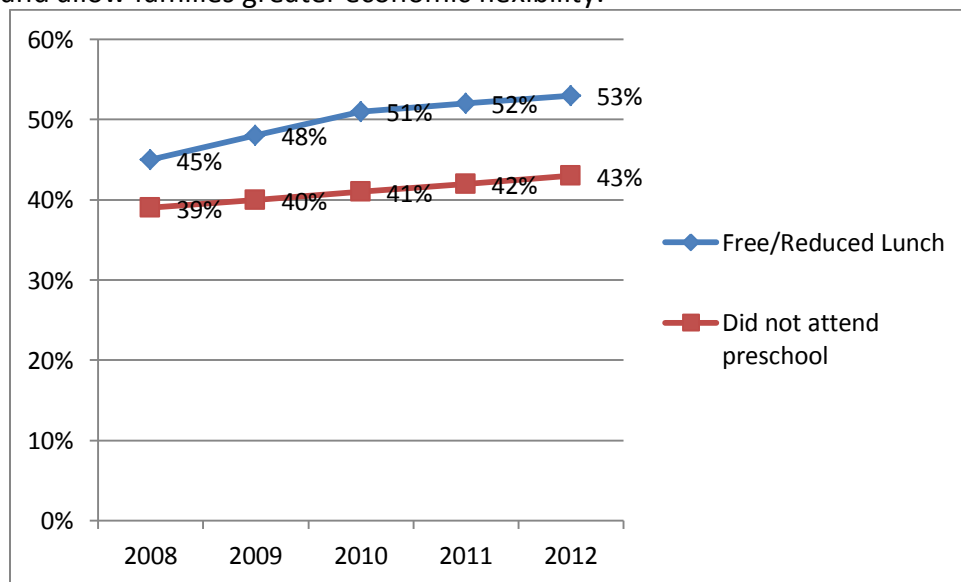
- Ensuring parent choice in selecting a school readiness program that best serves the child.
- Investing in our existing, and future, early learning/school readiness providers.
- Prioritizing both underserved and at-risk children.
- Providing assistance for middle-income, 'gap group', families of four year olds.

- Tasking the EOEL with developing and adopting standards for participating programs that will ensure qualified instruction and data collection.

By providing the EOEL authority to direct the State’s Early Childhood Education Program, we hope that they 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 is one of only eleven states providing no significant state funding for early childhood education programs. 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 received some form of school readiness programing.

It should be noted that over the past four years our state has seen a decrease in the number of children entering Kindergarten having had preschool, and at the same time we see an increase in the number of students receiving free/reduced lunch. Providing the extra support to families in order to send their four-year-olds to a school readiness program will hopefully help address this trend and allow families greater economic flexibility.



1. 43% of students did not attend preschool prior to entering the HDOE system in the 2012-2013 school year. This percentage has steadily declined annually by 1% from 2008 to 2012 (HSSRA 2012-2013).
2. 53% of students received Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) in the 2012-2013 school year. This is an increase of 1% when comparing to the previous school year.

Investing in a quality early childhood education program positions Hawaii to gain from federal matching funds that may become available as a result of the Obama Administration's new initiative to provide high-quality preschool for low- and middle-class families. The Administration is seeking to develop a new federal-state partnership that will provide incentives for states to broaden participation in their public preschool program.

We also see the critical mass of public and private support focused on this effort like never before. A June 2012 Ward Research Poll commissioned by the Good Beginnings Alliance and the Be My Voice Hawaii campaign showed that 75% of registered voters surveyed supported some form of state supported preschool program for all four-year-olds, and nearly 50% supported some form of new revenue specifically dedicated for this purpose.

Members of the business, philanthropic, labor, and education community have also demonstrated a commitment to working together to build an early learning system that provides our keiki with the educational edge to compete with their counterparts in other states on the mainland. As the recent 'Power of Preschool' publication in the January 2013 issue of *Hawaii Business Magazine* indicated, employers see a strong state supported preschool system as a key mechanism for creating the future workforce that the state depends on, as well as a way to attract new businesses to our island economy.

GBA supports SB 1095 SD2, and SB 1084 SD1, as the first steps toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality early childhood education program that will serve all of Hawaii's four-year- old children.



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

March 8, 2013

Representative Takumi
Chair of the Education Committee – State Capitol

RE: SB1084, SD1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
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.

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

The Community Children's Councils (CCCs) **strongly supports** SB1084, SD1 which allows public funds to be used for the support or benefit of private childhood education programs.

The CCCs have continuously maintained that *all* children benefit from early intervention. 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.

Without the support of public funding, the private sector may not be equipped to handle the incoming overflow of pre-school aged children. They may be turned away and not receive services or if accepted the children might not receive quality care. In both situations the results will be dire and when they enter Kindergarten well below their counterparts resulting in increased time to assimilate to the environment and longer time to learn the requisite skills. This may also impact their socialization and behavioral objectives.

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)

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Phone 808.681.3500
Fax 808.681.5280
Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org
www.childandfamilyservice.org

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Testimony on SB1084 **Constitutional Amendment**

House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, State Capitol, Room 309 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Vice-Chair Rep. Takashi Ohno 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 SB1084 that proposes a constitutional amendment which is necessary because currently the Hawaii State Constitution does not allow for benefits to be provided to private schools for educational purposes. The Attorney General has advised that a Constitutional Amendment would be needed so that the private sector, where capacity and expertise lie, can deliver services that incorporate higher-quality, education-focused standards to produce the successful outcomes for our keiki. Legislature approval is needed for this amendment to the Constitution that could then ensure that it would appear on the 2014 election ballot for ratification by voters. This ratification is needed to implement the high-quality early education program proposed in SB1095. 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

Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children



Child & Family Service



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 1084, SENATE DRAFT 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

House Committee on Education
Hon. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Hon. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 150 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of the intent of, but with comments for SB 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.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, Hawaii is among eleven states lacking a state-funded pre-kindergarten program. In 2014, the state's junior kindergarten program will be eliminated, leaving approximately 5,100 late-born four-year-olds without a public preschool option. Parents of these children will be forced to turn to the private education marketplace to find pre-kindergarten services for their children, at an average cost of \$8,640 per year (or \$720 per month).

According to the Good Beginnings Alliance, the average statewide monthly preschool cost amounts to \$13,680,000. GBA has also put together a sliding funding scale estimating how much money would be needed annually for state-supported 12-month preschool programs for varying percentages of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten population. Their estimates show that 1,200 children (6.3 percent) can be covered at a cost of \$10,368,000; 5,000 (26.3 percent) at a cost of \$43,200,000; 7,500 (39.4 percent) at a cost of \$64,800,000; and 10,000 (52.6 percent) at a cost of \$86,400,000.

Notably, in a 2011 report on income self-sufficiency in Hawaii, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism estimated that for parents to afford licensed care for one child, as well as before- and after-school care for a school-aged child, a Honolulu family of four must earn \$61,900 annually. A single working parent, by comparison, would need to earn \$56,400 per year. Sadly, DBEDT estimates that 27 percent and 77 percent of such families, respectively, fall below the income thresholds necessary for "self-sufficiency."

Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Following the Governor's lead, we want to highlight that, as of 2011, 42 percent of Hawaii's public school keiki did not attend any form of preschool prior to enrollment in formal education, despite the approximately 420 percent return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay and high-stakes evaluations for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are "classroom ready," meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

That said, we urge lawmakers to be vigilant in ensuring that this amendment is not utilized as a predicate for future implementation of private school voucher programs. In the past and in other states, advocates for school vouchers have seized upon any pertinent fiscal reform regarding education to forward their cause, falsely arguing that public funding for any private educational programming, should such programs be deemed successful by future studies, evinces the likely success of educational privatization writ large. We feel that school vouchers would undermine our public education system, the backbone of Hawaii's and the United States' democratic practices, potentially leading to educational discrimination, segregation, and scholastic inequalities that both mirror and exacerbate the socioeconomic disparity of our society. We also encourage your committee to consider the amending the implementation legislation that accompanies this bill (SB 1095) to restrict public funds to secular learning programs, thereby ensuring that funds appropriated to early childhood education as a result of the proposed amendment do

not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance



March 13, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 1084 SD1 – 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

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno 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.

HAIS supports SB1084 SD1 which proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law, to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

Research shows that children who participate in early childhood education programs are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Additionally, 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.

The Executive Office on Early Learning has developed a blueprint for a statewide early childhood education program which will ensure that our children enter kindergarten having had a quality preschool experience. This will eliminate the possible lack of school entry requirements or negative school success. This will particularly be advantageous for at-risk children, who are particularly affected by the lack of ability and access to quality early learning programs. However, for the "blueprint" to succeed, partnerships with the private sector must be forged in order to ensure high quality standards and meet capacity needs. Furthermore, the Attorney General indicates that we need a Constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be given to private early education programs. Thus, we urge you to approve this bill which would result in an amendment appearing on the 2014 election ballot to be ratified by state voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

March 13, 2013

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Cassandra Bennett
Dr. Tammy Bopp
Ms. Jyo Bridgewater
Dr. Robert Campbell
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Eleanor MacDonald
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Zaidarene Place
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Melissa Rosen
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. Tom Smith
Mr. Mike Tamahaha
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Ms. Cari White

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

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

RE: SB 1084, SD 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

Dear Chair Takumi 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** SB 1084, SD 1. We understand that this constitutional amendment is necessary to allow the State to expand the capacity of private preschools to serve preschool students, including students displaced by the repeal of Junior Kindergarten.

SEAC believes it is critically important for the Legislature to approve this amendment as a necessary step to pave the way for a high quality Early Childhood Education Program that embraces research-based, developmental appropriate and inclusive practices. If approved, SEAC will reach out to its stakeholder groups to help educate the public about this critically important commitment to better educational outcomes for young children and a stronger foundation for academic success in subsequent grades.

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

March 13, 2013

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

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

2:00 PM, Room 309
Hawaii State Capitol

FROM: The Early Learning Advisory Board

RE: SENATE BILL 1084, SD1, 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, Senate Draft 1. 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, 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, 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



Testimony presented before the
House Education Committee
March 13, 2013 at 2:00 pm
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB 1084, SD 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

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

SB 1084, SD 1 proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law, to help the State meet its goal to provide a state-funded early learning system for the keiki of Hawaii, prior to entering kindergarten.

Hawaii P-20 supports this bill. In order for the State to create a high-quality early learning system, it must utilize existing resources and services already delivered through private educational programs across the state. Our keiki must have pre-kindergarten learning experiences that adequately prepare them for their next stage of education. However, the Office of the Attorney General has opined that a Constitutional amendment is necessary to permit the use of public funds for private education programs. Without this amendment, we will not be able to reach a significant percentage of the population that needs every chance of success in school.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hawaii P-20

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Office: 808-956-3879 | Fax: 808-956-8037

www.p20hawaii.org

Hawai'i Construction Alliance

P.O. Box 179441
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 348-8885

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
and members
Committee on Education
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB1084, 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.

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

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance strongly supports investing in early childhood education, and asks the committees to pass SB1084, SB1093, and SB1095.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is comprised of the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Hawai'i Masons Union, Local 1 and Local 630; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local 3. Together, the four member unions of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance represent over 15,000 working men and women in the four basic crafts of Hawaii's construction industry.

Hawai'i is one of just eleven states that does not provide for a state-supported preschool system. As a result, many of our keiki are entering kindergarten without essential reading, math, and critical-thinking skills. Investing in a high-quality early education program for our state's four-year olds is an important step toward ensuring that all of our students enter our classrooms ready to learn – intellectually, socially, physically, and emotionally.

In the short term, investments in early childhood education will immediately generate positive economic impacts: parents who would otherwise be at home caring for young children can re-enter the workforce; preschools will employ more teachers and purchase more goods and services; and our public school system will become stronger and more effective as better-prepared students enter our kindergartens and elementary schools.

In the long term, these investments will result in a more employable, educated, and efficient workforce in all sectors of the economy. Children who received a quality early education are more likely to be high school graduates, hold productive jobs, earn higher salaries, be financially secure, and own their own home.

The high cost of preschool – currently estimated at \$720 per month in Honolulu – is a significant burden for our members and their families during these difficult economic times. Over the past several years, preschool attendance in the state’s working-class and lower-income neighborhoods has dropped dramatically. Greater support for early childhood education will help to address the issues of access and affordability which often prevent families from being able to send their children to high-quality preschool programs.

We strongly believe that expansion of our early childhood education programs will have profoundly positive benefits for our members, their families, and for our entire state now and in the future. We respectfully ask the committee to pass SB1084.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Dos Santos-Tam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai‘i Construction Alliance
execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org



Testimony of Cindy McMillan
The Pacific Resource Partnership

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

SB 1084, SD1 – Proposing an Amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the State Constitution to
Permit the Appropriation of Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education
Wednesday, March 13, 2013
2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

The Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

PRP **supports** SB 1084, SD1, which proposes a Constitutional Amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law.

PRP supports this bill because we believe that every child should be given the opportunity to succeed. Too many of our children are entering school without the basics needed to succeed. More specifically, many children whose parents work in one or more low-income jobs are unable to attend pre-school programs. Consequently, through no fault of their own or their parents, these kids can't keep up when they get to school. The achievement gap begins to be seen early, and it is difficult for our public schools to make up such a serious gap.

The proposed Constitutional Amendment, if approved by voters, would provide high-quality early learning for our keiki. This will have immediate and long-term benefits for the children participating in such programs and for the communities in which they will ultimately live and work. Local studies indicate that every \$1 invested in early learning generates \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii.

March 13 2013

Testimony Supporting SD 1084, SD1 – Proposing a Constitutional Amendment

Page 2

PRP believes this proposed public/private delivery system is needed to invest in our keiki – and our state’s – future. We believe that it will benefit low-income kids by narrowing the education achievement gap and providing them with opportunities to be successful in school and in the workplace.

PRP strongly supports our public schools and believes this proposed amendment would not negatively impact the resources needed to provide quality public education.

We respectfully ask for your committee to approve SB 1084, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important matter with you.



Committee: Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 2:00 pm
Place: Room 309
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii with comments on S.B. 1084, S.D.1 and S.B. 1095, S.D.2.

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) offers comments on S.B. 1084, S.D.1 and S.B. 1095, S.D.2, which, respectively, amend Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution and create early childhood education programs within the early learning system.

First, Article X, Section 1 of Hawaii’s Constitution currently prohibits public funding of “any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution.” S.B. 1084, S.D.1 would permit appropriation of public funds for “private early childhood education programs.” Thus, an amendment to the Hawaii State constitution is clearly necessary for the implementation of early education programs.

Additionally, as set forth in the ACLU’s testimony on S.B. 1093, S.D.2, which establishes school readiness programs for private early education programs, the ACLU is concerned that the programs do not contain the requisite mandates to ensure that (1) the programs comply with the Establishment Clause, which prohibits state funding of religious indoctrination; and (2) that the programs adequately safeguard against a myriad of unlawful discrimination. We incorporate that testimony herein by reference.

Although the ACLU fully supports high-quality early education and agrees that it is essential to childhood development and future performance, these publicly funded private programs must be evaluated and detailed measures developed to ensure that these programs do not result in harm to the children that they are intended to help.

Sincerely,

Lois K. Perrin
Legal Director

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801
T: 808-522-5900
F: 808-522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on
Education
March 13, 2013
Page 2 of 2

The American Civil Liberties Union (“ACLU”) is our nation’s guardian of liberty – working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

**American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 3410
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801
T: 808-522-5900
F: 808-522-5909
E: office@acluhawaii.org
www.acluhawaii.org**

Rep. Roy M. Takumi
Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno
Vice Chair

Members of House Committee on Education

Dear Rep Takumi, Rep Ohno and Members of the House Committee on Education,

On behalf of Atherton Family Foundation, as well as myself personally, I would like to support the funding of the Early Childhood bills SB1084, SB1093 and SB1095. The Atherton Family Foundation has been a supporter of Early Childhood Education for many years. We lease property to three of the KCAA pre-schools for \$1.00 per year. We believe strongly in the HKL Castle Foundation's study that each \$1 invested in Early Childhood Education will have a return of \$4.20. It is critical, for the 2014-2015 biennial budget, that the late born children who are now not able to attend Junior Kindergarten be put in pre-school for four year olds. We believe that over a 10 year period, the State of Hawaii should strive to achieve the objective that all four year olds in Hawaii be afforded the opportunity to attend a Pre-School. As 85% of a child's brain is neutrally connected by age five, we think this is critical to having children ready to learn when they attend kindergarten. Currently, 40% of the State's children do not attend pre-school, and fall behind when they enter kindergarten and never catch up.

We also believe that while the State should be paying for the full costs of low income children to attend pre-school, and that it should only be providing funds to middle income parents on a sliding scale. We know that there is currently \$40 million invested annually in Early Childhood Education by the Private Sector, with the primary contributor being Kamehameha Schools. We therefore think that over 10 years the cost of the program will grow to between \$100mm to \$125mm. We believe that this is a reasonable expense, given the fact that this investment should substantially improve and reduce costs overall for the K-12 public schools, as the majority of children will be ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. We also believe that it will take at least 10 years for the infrastructure to be built to handle at least 80% of the State's 4 year olds. (This is a voluntary program, and we believe that 20% of children will never go to pre-school, if we look at the figures for other states which have successfully implemented State Funded Early Childhood Education programs.) Atherton Family Foundation has been a supporter of capital requests in building Private Pre-Schools, and would continue to do so throughout this effort.

Additionally, we think that it is very important for the State to pass the Constitutional Amendment to allow the State to fund Private Pre-Schools, in order to smoothly implement the program in a cost effective manner. This has been the approach in many successful implementations of state funded pre school programs across the country. We would support having the Constitutional Amendment drafted so that it clearly does not support vouchers in the K-12 public school system.

Initially, for the 2014-2015 biennial budget, we are only asking for \$30mm annually to fund the program for the late borns. These funds have been part of the State's annual budget for many years in the Junior Kindergarten program, the funding of which comes to an end this year. We would very much appreciate your consideration of this very important initiative for the future of our children and for the overall benefit of the State of Hawaii and its citizens.

Atherton Family Foundation gives away annually \$4.5 mm in the State of Hawaii. The Board of Directors is happy to play a role in improving the lives of Hawaii's children and its residents.

Aloha,

Robin Midkiff
Vice President
Atherton Family Foundation



Maggie Garrett
Legislative Director

(202) 466-3234 x226
(202) 898-0955 (fax)
garrett@au.org

1301 K Street, NW
Suite 850, East Tower
Washington, DC 20005

Testimony of
Maggie Garrett, Legislative Director
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
in Opposition to
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

House Committee on Education
March 13, 2013

I submit this written testimony on behalf of our Hawaii members and supporters to express our strong opposition to SB 1084. This bill would take the drastic step of amending the Hawaii Constitution to permit taxpayer funding of private religious schools. Regardless of whether creating the envisioned pre-K program is wise, such a program certainly should not include sectarian schools, as doing so would violate fundamental principles of religious freedom and nondiscrimination. Nor should the Hawaii Constitution be stripped of these principles.

SB 1084 Violates Fundamental Principles of Religious Freedom

Americans United recognizes the value of religious education, and understands that parochial schools can serve an important role in the lives of many children. But, because most parochial schools either cannot or do not wish to separate the religious components of the education they offer from the academic programs, these schools must be funded by voluntary contributions, not taxation. For example, *The Wall Street Journal* published a piece this month by Cardinal Anthony Dolan, the archbishop of New York, in which he explained that Catholic schools “won't back away from insisting that faith formation be part of our curriculum, even for non-Catholic students.”¹ Such a stance, of course, is unobjectionable when the school is supported by church funds. Our objection is to using taxpayer funding to support such curriculum.

The current Hawaii constitutional provision that bars public funding of religious schools protects religious freedom in various ways. First, it protects taxpayers from being forced to subsidize a religious education, especially for religions that sharply conflict with their most sincerely held religious beliefs. For those who do not share a particular religious tradition, such taxpayer-supported religious content is an affront. Second, it keeps the government out of the business of religion—the government should not be funding religious education, but instead funding schools open to all students regardless of their faith. Third, it protects

¹Cardinal Anthony Dolan, *The Plan to Save Catholic Schools: How to combat falling enrollment while keeping standards high*, *The Wall Street Journal*, February 1, 2013, A11, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323701904578275921970228476.html?mod=googlenews_wsj>.

the autonomy of religious schools. Public funding entangles government with religious schools and weakens these schools by making them dependent upon government money.

The religious freedom protections in the current Hawaii Constitution, therefore, should be maintained and SB 1084 rejected.

SB 1084 Sanctions Government-Funded Discrimination

Although Hawaii's current Constitution states that *public* schools may not discriminate, this bill does not extend the ban on discrimination to *private* schools that take public funds. Under SB 1084, therefore, taxpayer funds could flow to schools that discriminate in hiring and admission.

Private schools may limit their admissions based upon religion, gender, economic status and other criteria. SB 1084 does nothing to forbid private schools from taking taxpayer-funded tuition *and* limiting their admission based on these factors. Such discriminatory admission policies, however, should never be supported and funded with Hawaii taxpayer funds. Allowing government money to flow to these institutions without demanding they follow non-discrimination policies is a clear violation of one of the central principles of our nation: the government should not aid discrimination.

Private religious schools can limit admissions not just to co-religionists, but also to only those students—and the parents of students—who follow its teachings and tenets. For example, nearly a quarter of the participating schools in [the] Georgia [Tuition Tax Credit program] require families to make a profession of religious faith, according to their websites.”² These schools can also segregate students or apply different policies based on gender.

In addition, religious schools can use religious hiring criteria. Thus, these schools can refuse to hire a teacher because he or she is an adherent to the wrong religion. They can also fire an unwed mother or a teacher going through a divorce, if either violates the religious teachings of the school. Hawaii taxpayer funds should never be used to fund jobs that have a religious test.

SB 1084 should be rejected because taxpayer money should never fund programs that harm the fundamental civil rights of students and teachers.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, the current Hawaii Constitution should be preserved and SB 1084 should be rejected.

² Stephanie Saul, “Public Money Finds Back Door to Private Schools,” *The New York Times*, May 12, 2012, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/22/education/scholarship-funds-meant-for-needy-benefit-private-schools.html>>.



680 Iwilei Road, Suite 510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
O'ahu: (808) 548-4811 • Fax (808) 548-2980
Lāna'i: (808) 565-3000 • Fax (808) 565-3312

Harry A. Saunders
President

Email Submittal: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>

Testimony by Harry Saunders
President, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
March 11, 2013

HOUSE COMMITTEE on EDUCATION

March 13, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Room 309

Support for:

SB 1084 SD1

To permit the appropriation of public funds for private
early childhood education programs;

SB 1093 SD2

Relating to school readiness;

SB 1095 SD2

Relating to early childhood education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Members of the HOUSE COMMITTEE on
EDUCATION:

I am Harry Saunders, President of Castle & Cooke Hawai'i and a member of the Hawai'i Business Roundtable. We support these early childhood measures as key commitments and investments for our State. Educational and Social advocates have provided their expertise and data for the importance and necessity of early childhood education. We respectfully request your support and commitment to these measures to make it a priority and a critical investment for the well being of our keiki and for the future of Hawai'i.

We support SB 1084 because it would permit public funds through partnerships with private programs that would engage existing private early childhood programs, incorporate higher-quality, education-focused goals and standards, and utilize the infrastructure developed over decades of preschool education in Hawai'i.

We also support SB 1093 as it would establish a School Readiness Program to address the most urgent need for services for children unable to start kindergarten in 2014-2015. It can be implemented without a Constitutional amendment, and delivered through Department of Human Services-licensed and licensed-exempt child care programs and Department of Education (DOE) that meet standards set by the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). This program is needed to establish the foundation/infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.

And finally, we support SB 1095 that would establish the Early Childhood Education Program (after the ratification of the Constitutional amendment) that would set up a full-scale high-quality early learning system for children and professionals; be delivered through private early childhood education programs and DOE that meet standards set by EOEL and incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment and teacher quality that are tied to educational outcomes and accountability.

I respectfully request your consideration to support these bills as a priority for early childhood education and to establish a specific commitment for the foundation and building blocks of our future, the children of Hawai'i.

Castle & Cooke Hawai'i continues to invest in Hawai'i as we diversify to sustain our operation in the areas of housing, commercial, renewable energy and agriculture. Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact us:

Harry Saunders, President
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
aktsukamoto@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-4884

Richard Mirikitani, Senior Vice President and Counsel
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
rmirikitani@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-4890

Carleton Ching, Vice President –
Community and Government Relations
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
cching@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-3793

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:29 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: tgeorge@castlefoundation.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terrence George	Harold K.L. Castle Foundation	Support	Yes

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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Testimony to the House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

Senate Bill 1084 SD1:

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:

Relating to School Readiness

Senate Bill 1095 SD2:

Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD2. 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

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:

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:

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 'S. Lee' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Sarah Lee Morihara (S)
President & Managing Director



First Insurance
Company of Hawaii
A Member of the Tokio Marine Group

Testimony to the House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

RE: Senate Bill 1084 SD1 - 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: Senate Bill 1093 SD2 - Relating to School Readiness
RE: Senate Bill 1095 SD2 - Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD2. 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 1084 SD1:

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 1093 SD2

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 1095 SD2:

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.

Allen B. Uyeda
President & CEO



March 13, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Room 309 – Hawai'i State Capitol

TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**In support of SB 1084 SD1, SB 1093 SD2 and SB 1095 SD2
RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION and SCHOOL
READINESS**

Girl Scouts of Hawai'i
410 Atkinson Drive
Suite 2E1, Box 3
Honolulu, HI 96814
808-595-8400
girlscouts-hawaii.org

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Girl Member Advocates

Catherine Coleman

Diana Sellner

Kayla Seto

Ex Officio

Gail Mukaihata Hannemann

Chief Executive Officer

Ivy Mixter Vinayaga

Chief Financial Officer

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

My name is Gail Mukaihata Hannemann and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of Hawai'i. The Girl Scouts of Hawai'i is the oldest and largest statewide leadership development program for girls with a membership of 5,500 girls and adults.

The measures you are considering today, Senate Bills 1084 SD1, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD2, are critical to ensuring that Hawaii's four-year-olds will have the quality early learning experience they need for healthy development. As you already know, many studies prove that high-quality early childhood education programs not only result in short- and long-term benefits for children but greatly enrich the quality of life for their families, communities and society as a whole.

In our work with girls in kindergarten through twelfth grades, we have come to appreciate the importance of providing all children, regardless of their families' personal circumstances, with the type of learning experiences that these three bills seek to provide and make accessible to our younger keiki.

The combination of these three bills speaks volumes about what is important to the people of Hawai'i - our keiki and `ohana. These bills not only seek to support the development and growth of our young children but also recognize the challenges and barriers that families often face as they provide for their children.

I am sure you will all agree that every child deserves the opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential. A key factor of this most basic human aspiration is to engage children from birth in ways that best develop their brains so they are able to combine their natural talents and abilities with the skills they learn to make positive differences in their lives and the world. While there is much work to be done, these bills will begin to move us in the right direction.

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

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place



HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224



ONLINE SUBMITTAL
Hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, Room #309

DATE: March 9, 2013
TO: House Committee on Education
Rep. Roy Takuma, Chair
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair

From: Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director of the Hawaii Catholic Conference
Re: **Support Intent of SB 1084** SD1 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
Oppose SB 1093 SD2 Relating to School Readiness
Oppose SB 1095 SD2 Early Childhood Education

The Hawaii Catholic Schools and the Hawaii Catholic Conference applaud Gov. Neil Abercrombie's desire for a private-public partnership to provide non-compulsory quality pre-school education in Hawaii. However, we have serious concerns about his plan's facilitation and implementation.

Our concerns are based on the well-known principles which, in general, curtail the public funding of faith-based schools.

Understanding this, the governor suggests that faith-based schools, in order to qualify for funds, could, among other things, separate secular and religious curriculums. However, this is not possible in Hawaii's Catholic schools where religion is an integral part of the educational philosophy and environment at every level and in every subject.

Therefore, while we would welcome the opportunity to expand our reach, we cannot do it at the cost of curbing our Catholic identity and message.

However, other ways exist for the governor to achieve his goals while avoiding these restrictions on public funds. Educational vouchers and tax credits for parents would make private preschools more accessible and affordable while affirming the parents' right to educate their children in the manner that best suits them. We would welcome adding these alternatives to the governor's plan.

For these reasons, we are philosophically in support of the intent of SB1084 SD1, but oppose SB1093 SD2 and SB1095 SD2.

Mahalo for opportunity to testify.



Testimony to the House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 309

RE: 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 1084 SD1

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. We support Senate Bill 1084 SD1 that proposes a constitutional amendment to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs, as provided by law, to help the State meet its goal of providing an early learning system for the children of Hawaii.

We fully support the creation within the early learning system an early childhood education program. The members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable employ thousands of graduates of 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.

We also believe strongly 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.

As business people our members 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.

More importantly, our members are concerned about their employees and their families. They believe that every child should be given the opportunity to succeed and success is easier to create with early childhood programs that provide them with a quality education.

We strongly support the public/private delivery system contemplated by the legislation. As previous People's Pulse polls have 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.

We believe that we are at a critical juncture for our youngest of children. Many of our members themselves are part of the Be My Voice Campaign and the Hawaii Business Roundtable fully supports the Be My Voice Campaign which will help to provide a stronger future for our keikis.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify and we look forward to joining your efforts to improve the lives of our children.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable



HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

55 Merchant Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4333

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday, March 13, 2013 – 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

The House Committee on Education

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

From: Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA

Re: **SB 1084 SD1 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**

Testimony in Support

My name is Virginia Pressler, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategic Officer for Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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.

HPH fully supports the creation within the early learning system an early childhood education program. We employ thousands of graduates of 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.

We also believe strongly 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.

As business people we 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 Hawaii showed that for every \$1 Hawaii 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.

Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provide no significant state funding for early childhood education. This coupled with nearly 43% of our students not having received preschool upon entering Kindergarten means that our Department of Education System must devote time and resources to bringing these children to the level of their counterparts who have had some form of school readiness program. We cannot, as a state, continue on this path if we hope to produce the workforce that will lead



us into the ever more competitive, and complex 21st century.

We strongly support the public/private delivery system contemplated by the legislation. As previous People's Pulse polls have 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 3:16 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mitch@kaneoheranch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
H. Mitchell D'Olier	Kaneohe Ranch Company	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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1806 South King Street, Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | Ph: (808) 942-4708 | haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org

Representative Roy Takumi
Representative Takashi Ohno
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Subject: SB 1084, SD1, 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. 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.

March 13, 2013

starwood

Hotels and
Resorts

2155 kalakaua avenue, suite 300
honolulu, hi 96815

united states

To: Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol; 2:00 p.m.

Re: **Support for SB1084 SD1, SB1093 SD2, and SB1095 SD2, Relating to Early
Childhood Education and School Readiness**

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

As a member of the Be My Voice Campaign, which strives to provide a stronger future for Hawai'i's keikis, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bills 1084 SD1, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD2.

These three bills collectively help to ensure that Hawai'i families will have access to high-quality early learning programs that help children enter school ready to learn and succeed. SB1084 SD1 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be appropriated to support private early childhood education programs as provided by law. Both SB1093 SD2 and SB1095 SD2 would provide families with greater access to high-quality early learning programs and also have the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs, which averages \$720/month per child for preschool in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is one of 11 states without a state-funded preschool. Yet many studies prove how our state is in dire need of quality early learning opportunities for our keiki. Statistics as of 2011, show that less than half of Hawai'i's public school kindergarten children attend preschool; only one out of five kindergarten classes have the majority of their students entering school with essential reading and math skills; and one out of three children is not reading at 3rd grade level. This means that our state education system must provide intervention to bring students up to grade level with their counterparts who have had school-readiness/early learning programming. Establishing increased access to high-quality early learning programs can change this.

Finally, we know from brain research that 85 percent of human brain development happens before age five and that, between the ages of three and 10, a child's brain is 2 1/2 times more active than an adult's. We also know from national and local studies that attending preschool prepares children for learning and can reduce the need for special education services. The 2008 study of the "Economic Benefits of Investments in Early Education for Hawai'i" showed that for every \$1 our state invests in a quality four-year early learning program, we will see a return of \$4.20.

The evidence to support these bills is overwhelming and the cost benefits to making these investments will clearly reap positive returns to our state's economy. Quality early learning—preparing ALL children to be ready for school—should be a priority for our state. It's time we make these investments to sustain our future.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee's support for these bills.

Sincerely,

Keith Vieira
Senior Vice President of Operations
Starwood Hotels and Resorts - Hawai'i and French Polynesia



*In the spirit of 'ohana,
we are all parents
of the children of Hawai'i*

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i
2850 Kahawai Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: 375-3917

Email: ppshi.org@gmail.com

House Committee on Education

March 12, 2013

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

This testimony is submitted in strong support of Senate Bills 1084 SD2, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD1.

Parents for Public Schools of Hawai'i (PPSHI) is the Hawai'i chapter of the national organization Parents for Public Schools. We are a non-profit organization that strives to engage parents, students, and community members across the State in supporting enriched and quality public education through (1) effective communication between families, community, and schools, (2) greater awareness of educational policies and practices, (3) community involvement in education and decision making that promotes school support, improvement, and student achievement, and (4) accurate media representation of public education.

We believe that in the importance of quality early education programs in order to give all of our youngest students the opportunity to be successful when they enter the classroom. Unfortunately a large percentage of children currently entering kindergarten in Hawai'i come to school without the benefits and skills that a great preschool experience provides. Children with limited social skills such as cooperation and following directions have delays in adjusting to a classroom environment and learning in a group setting. Those with underdeveloped fine and gross motor skills lag behind their peers from the start and are not ready to engage in writing and academic tasks.

Passing these bills will ensure that many more of our children will be successful in a school environment, be able to develop feelings of competency, and a love of learning. We urge you to make the commitment to our children's futures by passing these bills.

Thank you for your consideration,

Aloha,

Lois A. Yamauchi
President, Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Testimony to the House Committee on Education**Wednesday, March 13, 2013****2:00 p.m.****Conference Room 309**

Senate Bill 1084 SD1: 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: Relating to School Readiness

Senate Bill 1095 SD2: Relating to Early Childhood Education

Re: Testimony in strong support of the above bills

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

My name is John Dean, President and CEO of Central Pacific Bank (CPB). CPB is a Hawaii based financial institution with over \$4.4 billion in assets and 900 plus employees. Providing a full range of banking, investment and trust services. The bank and its employees also have a long and proud history of giving back to the communities in which we work, live and raise our families.

We strongly support Senate Bills 1084 SD1, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD2. Our community needs to invest early in a child's life, when the brain is undergoing tremendous growth. Beginning school at an early age is one important key to making them successful in our businesses and in our community. Hawaii's 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.

In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawaii noted that for every \$1 Hawaii invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state receives 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.

Central Pacific Bank believes that every child should be given the opportunity to succeed and that this begins with early childhood programs. We urge passage of all three measures.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY OF TRUSTEE DANIEL C. AHUNA III

SB 1084 SD1

**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.**

House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dan Ahuna and I testify today in support of SB 1084 SD1. My support today is in my capacity as an individual member of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Board of Trustees, representing Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

This bill would enable the State to provide a statewide early learning system for children. Together with SB 1093 SD2 and SB 1095 SD2, the other two bills on this agenda, these are the components necessary to establish a high-quality early learning system for the future of Hawai'i – our keiki.

As a former teacher and charter school leader, I know how important it is to lay a solid foundation so that our youth will have every opportunity afforded to them for success later in life. In education, that means access to early childhood education before kindergarten. Doing so better prepares keiki for the academic, social, and cultural rigors they will face throughout their academic career and in life.

According to research, a child who is not prepared for kindergarten prior to entry is more likely to end up in the criminal justice system as an adult. In my own work with adjudicated youth, I know this to be true. OHA's own research study has also shown that our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries, who are 24 percent of the general population, comprise 39 percent of incarcerated individuals. This is especially concerning in light of data that shows in some districts, almost 60 percent of Native Hawaiian children did not attend preschool before entry into kindergarten. Quite simply, we are falling short in getting our keiki off to a good start, and our Native Hawaiian keiki in particular.

In order for us to address this growing problem, it is imperative that we change the current system by investing in our keiki and the future of Hawai'i nei. Therefore, I again urge you to pass SB 1084 SD1.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 7:38 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: aarontmartin@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: When the state starts giving public monies to private schooling institutions it is condoning the beliefs and message of that institution. And if that institution is a religious one, then the state is effectively supporting that religion. This is a violation on the separation of church and state. This bill will also set a precedent for public monies to be used to support private K-12 educational institutions, which will erode the public education system. Thank you for your time, Aaron Martin

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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March 13, 2013

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: S.B. 1084 Hearing March 12, 2013 Testimony in Opposition.

To: Representative Roy Takumi and the Committee on Education.

Aloha, my name is Steve Canales, and I strongly oppose S.B. 1084.

This measure will take away needed funds for our public schools. In many ways with many short falls in the education field every dollar counts. Early education for many preschool children is essential, but not at the expense of taking public monies and transferring it to the private sector.

I strongly oppose S.B. 1084. I would like to thank, the Committee on Education for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Steve Canales

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 7:05 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: amyathomas@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Perruso	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a parent of a public school child, I STRONGLY oppose the use of public funds for a voucher system and am especially appalled by the potential breach of the wall between church and state. PLEASE kill this bill, as soon as possible. It is an insult to Hawaii taxpayers. Sincerely, Amy Perruso

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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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 12:12 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: toni_reynolds@email.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antoinette Reynolds	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As an elementary teacher I see first hand the importance of good, quality early childhood education. However, the proposal to amend our state constitution to allow use of public money for private schools would set a dangerous precedent. It is simply another form of vouchers, and as such comes with all the complex controversies associated with vouchers. The separation of church and state is a constitutionally protected right, and we need to keep that in mind when opening up our state constitution to such a proposal. We need to find other ways to provide early childhood care--bring back the "Junior K" program, or mandate kindergarten. Now is not the time to take on another costly program; we need to pay attention to existing K-12 school programs in need of financial support.

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Testimony of _____

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because: I am a mother of two, and I support initiatives to improve the quality of care for our keiki.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: ___Ashley de Coligny_____

Ph or Email: _ashleyut@hotmail.com_____

Signature: _Ashley de Coligny_____

CAROLYN MARTINEZ GOLOJUCH, MSW

92-954 Makakilo Drive #71 • Makakilo, Hawai`i 96707-1340
cell: 808 779-9078 • fax: 808 672-6347 • e-mail: gomama808@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 11, 2013

RE: **SB1084** Public Funds for Private Early Childhood Education

In Opposition

TO: House Chair, Vice Chair and members of the House Education Committee

SB1084 has to be the most ridiculous bill to be presented during the 2013 Legislative Session.

One of the most precious attributes of our United States is that we provide Public Education to our citizens. Public Education is the hallmark of our very life as a free country, the equalizer that gives everyone justice in society. It is said that a society is judged by the way they treat their children.

When my husband was stationed overseas we witnessed children of school age working when they should have been in class. They worked for their very life sustaining benefit, not for toys or treats but for their basic food and shelter. We can never go back to child labor. Children belong in school.

In today's world our budgets are being cut on every front. To even consider using our tax dollars for private enterprises when our Public Schools are struggling is the most un-American concept that I can think of.

I speak as a social worker, former Substitute Teacher and a proud graduate of Public Education from a time when public schools were given respect and support of our communities. SB1084 is a disgrace to our country and our very quality of life. Our schools need every dime they are allotted and more.

Certainly we can create bills that will benefit our Educational system rather than line the pockets of private schools. The rich can and will afford their own educational opportunities without jeopardizing our Public Schools.

I have faith that the House Education Committee will Hold SB1084 for the benefit of Education and our students in Hawaii. Please hold SB1084.

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:23 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: cheryltat@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl Cotten	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: First thought- Effective date of 2050? Was this a typographical error? I cannot imagine that this pressing need to have our children in preschool is being played by you. Second thought- form public school preschools NOW- and pay the teachers. Third- There are already federally funded preschool programs- work to get these expanded in our state.

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Testimony of Christy H. Ryan

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because I am a parent of a child who will not be able to start Kindergarten at the age of 5, because she was born on August 28th. She will be the age of 6 when she gets to start Kindergarten, which will dramatically delay her start in education with all the other children her age. It will also mean more childcare or preschool cost burdens for another full year for us and everyone concerned. She is already looking forward to going to school with her older sister, but won't be able to, for an extra year. Instead of an age cutoff, there should be options like some sort of testing to see how ready they are.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Christy H. Ryan

Ph or Email: 808-554-8829

Signature: 

Testimony of Colleen Miyashiro

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because as a Mother, Grandmother and Social Worker working for a homeless shelter have firsthand knowledge of how important Early Childhood Education is for our future generations. From personal experience I have met numerous children that will be greatly impacted negatively if we do not support this bill.

Please do not make a mistake today that will cause us much regret in the future causing increase in criminal activity and imprisonment.

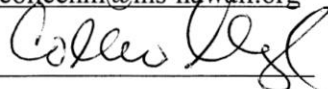
Please support early education for a prosperous future of happy, well adjusted, contributing members of society.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Colleen Miyashiro

Ph or Email: colleenm@ihs-hawaii.org

Signature: 

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 1:27 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: clfong@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Fong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am directly opposed to this bill's reference to "private" preschool. Remove the private references and apply only to public educational institutions, I'm for it. These are state monies - which is public resources to be used within the guidelines of public oversight, accountability, and for the greater good of all. If a parent wishes to put their child in a private preschool, they pay for it. I did and am happy for the results but I did not, nor did I expect the state to offset or fund any portion of the cost. It would have been great if preschool had been offered at a public school. In increasing preschool options - with public state monies, it should be at a public school with the appropriate oversight, credentials and training necessary to provide an excellent program. Already, public schools are challenged with providing an excellent education but lack of adequate resources is hampering that intent. Taking more of public resources to assist private business functions (for profit) does not help promote a great public school system. Kids need to be supported but not at the expense of helping a private school enhance their bottom line without the mandated oversight and accountability that comes with a public school.

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 11:39 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: djmailer@ksbe.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Jay Mailer	Kamehameha Schools	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 4:14 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: Dkeikoa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Aoki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I have long been an advocate of early childhood education. In fact, I specialized in it at the beginning of my career. I am now a fourth grade teacher at Kealakehe Elementary School in Kona and I know that the students who have had good preschool experiences do better in school in general. I believe that the junior kindergarten program was a good one and helped to give some students an opportunity to have 2 years of kindergarten so that they had more time to develop readiness skills, It seems hypocritical to have cut this very common sense program and now replace it with a program that is so very problematic. There is the issue of using public funds to pay for this, when we have been sacrificing for the last 4 years because of the lack of funds. There is also the issue of separation of church and state. So many existing preschools are associated with churches. How in the world will you be able to monitor that? There is the issue of a government program for all whether or not they can afford it. If the government of Hawaii wants to help the neediest children get preschool education, that is a worthy cause. Why don't we expand existing programs? Provide scholarships to needy children to attend preschool? Why not mandate kindergarten and have it available for 2 years if parents and teachers believe it will be better for the child? There are other ways to help young children than to create a program that requires us to amend the constitution and that will lead to so many problems. At a time, when we are just recovering from an economic disease, now is not the time to divert public money (our medicine, to continue the metaphor) into private businesses. The state must first of all be sure that its current responsibilities are taken care of, like the teachers' contract. Then, programs for the needy should take precedence over a voucher system for all who desire it. Please vote no. .

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 9:14 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: dlching@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna L. Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for your support of this important bill. According to Nobel Laureate economist, James Heckman, each \$1 of investment in Early Childhood will save \$7 in other social, education, health and criminal justice expenses. Let's be smart, look at the Big Picture, and stop the Cycle of Rotten Social Outcomes. Mahalo, Donna

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 5:06 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: efia@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eleyne Fia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 8:04 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: gurneth@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gurneth Slavens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill violates the separation of church and state. It also takes money out of the public schools which will have a negative impact on our students.

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 7:19 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lightrea@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Irene Rea	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My granddaughter attends public elementary school in Mililani. I strongly object to the use of any public funds for the purpose of private schools in Hawaii. I urge you to remember your obligation to safeguard our public funds for the use of the public only. In no way should you consider using Hawaiian funds for private enterprise.

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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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 08, 2013 7:54 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/8/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Aloha members,

My name is Justin Hughey and I have been a special education teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary since 2005. Plenty of statistics why our students and parents deserve to have early childhood education but this bill is the wrong way to provide it in this state.

First, why did we cut junior kindergarten and why is it not mandatory? Second, why are Democrats endorsing vouchers? Our poorly funded educational system has forced 17% of all students to go to private school primarily for smaller student to teacher ratios. The state can't even tell us how much public school funding is wasted on private providers like Edison. If we let public funds fund private early childhood education how long will it be before we give vouchers for private school? Overall how are we going to find highly qualified teachers for early childhood education when we can't keep teachers in the profession longer than three years since the pay is the lowest in the country?

If you are serious about providing early childhood education in Hawaii, it can't be for private programs, it needs to be rolled out through the DOE and it should have a GET tax raise to pay for it! You get what you pay for.

Mahalo,

Justin Hughey

Testimony of Kaleimomi Cezar

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

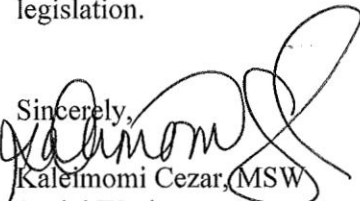
I am a strong supporter of this legislation because:

Early Childhood Education is an important part of each individual's life. As a parent of a 4 year old preschool student enrolled in one of the preschools of the 'Aha Punana Leo, I understand how important it is for young children to experience school readiness and build a strong foundation at an early age. Not only is my family building upon our foundation by giving back to my child's school through helping to clean the school, participate in weekly workshops, family days, and monthly parent meetings, but we are growing as Native Hawaiians in perpetuating our culture and language. It is my commitment to my child that will ensure his success in the future, and supporting legislation for early childhood education and school readiness will not only re-affirm my commitment to my child's education, but also help to provide a foundation for future families of young children 0 – 5 years old.

Prior to my child's enrollment into a Hawaiian Immersion Preschool, my child also attended a center-based child care establishment that also helped to provide my child with the routines, and developmental activities needed to help foster his solid foundation in education. I'm grateful for programs such as the Department of Human Services Child Care Subsidy, Keiki O Ka Aina's HELP for Childcare, and Kamehameha Schools' Pauahi Keiki Scholars which helped me to financially be able to send my child to both of the preschool environments that he attended. But I worry for those parents who can't afford to send their children to preschool or who don't qualify for child care subsidies or financial aid like I was able to. It is imperative to find a place for the children of families who will have to send their children to preschool for another year, and whose children will be almost 1 year older than their counterparts when they do start Kindergarten, especially since paying for another year of preschool can be, often times detrimental to families due to the high cost of living in Hawaii.

My only suggestion to these bills is to also include more cultural based learning for Native Hawaiian families so that they can build upon their foundation and perpetuate their culture through language and/or cultural based activities that involve the 'aina. I am very grateful to be a recipient of the Pauahi Keiki Scholars program which provides place based learning workshops through Keiki O Ka Aina for families to learn about poi pounding, lomilomi, la'au lapa'au, etc. I believe that in addition to a strong educational foundation, the family also needs to be able to build upon their foundation through place-based workshops to promote family well-being and commitment to one another, because your family is your biggest supporter through both the good times and the bad times.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Kaleimomi Cezar, MSW
Social Worker
Parent of 4 year old

Testimony of Sandra Ann Kauionalani Pratt

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness

S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education

& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because I am a parent of a late born 4 year-old child and care deeply about the future of other parents and their children. As a single parent, navigating our state's current early childhood educational system has been difficult for several reasons. Access to high quality early learning experiences is very expensive, especially because we are on a limited budget. These quality opportunities are limited as well, most of which are at capacity. I attribute these challenges to the lack of state support. Parents and their young children should not have this problem if we truly have the objective to see our children succeed long term. The issue here is our K-12 system expects our children to be prepared to enter into kindergarten ready to sit in a classroom, write worksheets and learn. The reality of this situation is much of these kindergarteners are not prepared to do these very basic skills because they have not attended or received high quality early learning experiences. Although my son is able to enter kindergarten next year, I am not sending him because he is not ready for it emotionally, physically and socially. He deserves an additional year of preschool to develop to his full potential. What that means for us is we will have to again make several sacrifices in order to pay the \$8,000 tuition for preschool. The financial burden on our family has been significant. My story represents many in our state. I have had to scrimp, save and live with my family in order to afford preschool. I work and I am a student and receive no financial support from the state or any public agency. I pay my fair share of taxes. Education has been a priority for us. I am committed to finding opportunities for my child because I understand the value of early childhood education in preparing him for kindergarten and the world. However, I know many parents who have struggled with these same challenges almost to the point of giving up. If I had a choice, I would have loved for our family to attend a family-child interaction program because it aligns with our cultural values. Unfortunately, we were are not able to due to my working schedule instead we have had to access center-based care because it is the only option right now that can meet the needs of our family. I believe children have the right to multiple pathways to success in different settings (i.e. family child interaction learning, center based, home visiting). No parent or child should ever have to struggle as I have in finding opportunities for my son. This process should not be difficult. All children in our state deserve a chance to succeed. It's critical that you, as our trusted leaders, make our youngest children a priority and support these bills. These children are the future of our state and we are responsible to provide the very best education for them. Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Sandra Ann Kauionalani Pratt
Mom of preschooler

Jenna Takenouchi

From: Kiana Shiroma [kianak@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 12:31 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony

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

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Kiana Shiroma.

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education on behalf of my three-year old daughter, Samantha Shiroma.

My husband, Grant Shiroma, and I were born and raised in Kailua. We are the proud products of the public education system here. I am actually still a student, as I am a PhD student in Educational Administration at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). I also work at UHM as an academic advisor for the Honors and Regents and Presidential Scholars Programs. Grant works in construction. Both of us have been working for the same employers for over 10 years. Although we were well aware of the extremely high cost of living here on the Windward side, there is no where else in the world where we would rather be or raise our daughter in.

Being the planner that I am, we married soon after I earned my M.A. in Speech in 2008 and gave birth to Sammie in 2009. Shortly after, we bought a small townhouse in Kahaluu. Fortunately, my mother retired to watch Sammie and is still doing so today. During this time, we have been saving up money, not to pay for college, but to save for one year of preschool for Sammie! This has been extremely hard to do, especially this past year, when Grant was unexpected laid off for over three months. To be able to earn more money, I have been teaching Honors courses during the summer, which unfortunately means less time I have to spend with Sammie.

Imagine my horror when I found out that Sammie is now unable to attend kindergarten for another year of paying more than \$600 a month, a year that we did not anticipate or plan for. Our lower-middle class status is so frustrating in that we do not qualify for need-based support, but are scraping by just to pay for one year of preschool, despite being hard working and committed employees. I really do not know what to do. Sammie is accepted for preschool for June, but we are considering pushing it back so we can save more for this additional year of preschool. What is the

most frustrating for us is that Sammie and all of the other children her age are the ones who will suffer due to circumstances and events out of their control. They are being denied education so the state can save money. How does that make any sense to anyone? It is MY duty as her mommy to speak out for her and to be her voice.

Thus, my request for you is to make sure that this injustice does not happen and that our future generations are supported so they can succeed in the future. Every day, as an academic advisor of UHM's Honors Program, I see a huge divide between Hawaii and mainland students and an even greater divide between public and private school graduates, which probably can be attributed to the lack of state support for the education of Hawaii's keiki. Please do not widen this divide. I am not asking for a free ride. I am just asking for financial support so we can stretch our money enough so that Sammie can attend preschool and start her education on an equal level with her peers.

Thank you so much for your time, effort, and support. I know that you will make the right decision for our future generations of Hawaii.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns or require further clarification.

Sincerely,

Kiana Shiroma

47-389 Hui Iwa St., Apt. 2

Kaneohe, HI

[808-542-6191](tel:808-542-6191)

kianak@hawaii.edu

Testimony of Ku'ulani Keohokalole

In SUPPORT of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 2:00pm, Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of these bills, and this is why.

Just three years ago, I was a 20-something living in New York City, going for a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership at NYU. I knew that education was my passion and that one day, I'd be doing something back home to help my community. But that opportunity hit me quicker than I thought.

In 2010, I gave birth to my first child, a son, Lenox. Lenox changed our lives around. My boyfriend and I quickly packed up, got married, and moved back home to Hawaii with our families. We were so overwhelmed with the shock of becoming new parents and feeling completely helpless when it came to what it took to raise him.

Fast forward to today, and Lenox is a fun-loving, rambunctious and kolohe 2 ½ year old, attending preschool in Kaneohe and learning all sorts of new things. We are so grateful to have him there, but the cost is much for a family of three to bear – nearly \$8,000 a year. Without my father-in-law's support, we would have to figure out what to do with him during the day. Sure, his grandparents are there to watch him, but sometimes parents want better for their kids than 8 hours a day of Dora the Explorer and Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, and even the best intentioned grandparent gets tired and needs breaks sometimes.

Over the past 6 months, he's learned how not to hit, bite, scratch or kick other kids, how to sit down and listen to a story being read, how to take turns washing his hands, and has even been inspired to start using the potty because of the other big boys in his class.

Now with our second child, a daughter, on the way next month, it breaks my heart to think of how we may not be able to afford to send the two of them to preschool. So who gets short-changed? And we are one of the lucky ones who have family to support them. But what about those who cannot afford it? Are we starting our kids off behind from the very get-go?

I credit my passion for education to my family – in particular, my grandmother, and my mother, who is also testifying today. But I also remember my preschool experience and the desire it built in me to have a love for life and for learning. No one could ever take that away.

Please make sure kids like Lenox and his baby sister have the best possible start. Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Ku'ulani Keohokalole
kuukeoho@gmail.com

Dear Esteemed Legislators,

I am writing to encourage you to **vote NO** on **SB1084**. There are several reasons for this.

First of all, I am a public school teacher; although I teach middle school students, my 24 years in the classroom have been all about students and learning. I ABSOLUTELY agree with the notion of more early childhood education, and I am certain that if my current struggling students could have entered school in pre-school, they would NOT be having the same academic problems they endure now. HOWEVER, I am also certain that ALL of Hawaii's keiki need access to pre-school, and the way to ensure that ALL children have a chance to attend pre-school is to craft a PUBLIC SCHOOL pre-school. Privatizing preschool is NOT the answer. Public schools should be given the additional funds to start pre-school classes for ALL young children (currently, only identified special education students earn the right to public pre-school). If we privatize any aspect of public education, the "playing field" becomes UNlevel, and the neediest students will inevitably be left behind in the push to get vouchers.

Second, there is a budget crisis underway in the schools right now...for example, my school has barely enough copy paper to get through the year, and as a classroom teacher, the only way I can buy supplies for my students is with my OWN money because my school has NO money to fund my usual annual purchases (first time in 24 years that this has ever happened!!). And this doesn't even include the salary cuts that teachers have endured for 4 years. Please solve THOSE current, pressing problems FIRST, and create PUBLIC pre-schools after that work is done.

Third, the creation of viable, fair, robust public pre-schools requires funding that is IN ADDITION TO the current public school budget. Please, don't cut into the existing "pool" of money to create the pre-school program...that unfairly takes away money and opportunities from older students. Let's ensure the BEST education for ALL of Hawaii's keiki - - ADD to the existing DOE budget, earmark it for pre-school, and watch Hawaii's public school children soar! **Vote NO on SB1084!**

Mahalo nui loa, Laurel Clay

March 12, 2013

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

From: Linda Buck

Re: In Support of SB 1084, 1093 and 1095 Relating to Early Childhood Education and School Readiness

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support all three of these measures, which take the essential first steps to ensure that all of Hawaii's keiki and their families have the early learning opportunities they deserve to help them meet the milestones of development that will prepare them for success in school, and in life.

These measures recognize that in spite of the valiant efforts of private sector early learning programs statewide, without a coherent system that coordinates, provides support and demands accountability, our children will suffer. We will continue to perpetuate an achievement gap that leaves the most vulnerable children behind.

We know what to do. Countless research studies and task forces have shown the way. It is time to act. Children, families and communities will benefit from a strong early learning system such as the one proposed in these measures. Our state will benefit from the well-documented potential savings that result from investing in high quality early education and care. Our state will also benefit from the good citizens such a system will have a hand in producing. 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 with the valuable and high quality early learning opportunities they need to succeed when they reach Kindergarten and beyond.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we must invest in them now.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1084, 1093 and 1095.

Jenna Takenouchi

From: Linda Coble [lindacoble@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:54 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony from Linda Coble

Testimony of Linda Coble

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness

S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because we need to address the needs of our most vulnerable, youngest children. Every one-dollar spent on quality early childhood services in Hawaii produces \$4.20 return on investment in reduced spending on social welfare services. 85-percent of human brain development happens before age five.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation. Let's give our keiki an opportunity to excel in a safe, encouraging and stimulating environment !!

Sincerely,

Name: Linda Coble

Ph or Email: lindacoble@mac.com

Signature: _____

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

From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 2:00 pm
Conference Room 309

Subject: **SB 1084, SD1: 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.**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of SB 1084, SD1, proposing an amendment to Article X, Section I of the State Constitution.** This bill will allow a state-funded voluntary early education program to be implemented by private early childhood education programs.

*Please note that Hawaii may be eligible to bring in new federal dollars under President Obama's recently proposed preschool program – **however** - only if Hawaii is already investing state money in such a program. It would be very unfortunate for Hawaii to miss this partnership opportunity.*

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

This presents an opportunity to build upon Hawaii's strong P-3 pilot funded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation. The positive linkages among parents, early childhood programs, and K-3 programs can systemically enhance Hawaii's educational pipeline.

This approach is economically sensible as it utilizes the infrastructure developed over decades of preschool education. **The 39 states who already publically fund early childhood programs utilize private early education programs for implementation.**

Hawaii boasts a strong cohort of early education programs. These programs will be required to follow a set of program standards. Child outcomes will be monitored and reported to ensure quality and efficacy of the program.

I urge you to allow this bill to go forward. The people of Hawaii deserve the opportunity to speak up for their keiki.

Contact Information: lizchun@hawaii.rr.com

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:18 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lonpolk@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon Polk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: "Please oppose SB 1084. This bill would take the drastic step of amending our constitution to explicitly permit taxpayer dollars to fund religious schools and education. This violates core principles of religious freedom. Taxpayers should never be forced to pay for religious education, especially when that education conflicts with their own religious beliefs. Any government funded pre- K program should be limited to secular schools and education. Accordingly, I ask that you reject efforts to strip religious freedom protections from our Constitution and oppose SB 1084."

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

Testimony of Mary Jane Tajeron

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because I believe our children need an early start in education. I am sad to see the Pre-K programs ending soon as my 2 boys have benefited from it and has given them such a head start entering Kindergarten. If we are able to push for this early childhood education, I know our future children can only reap great results which will show in the long run. This will also help our parents that want to send their children to preschool but do not have the funds or resources to do so. Please help pass this early childhood bill as it will benefit our keikis now but I will also benefit all of our futures. Our keikis will be able to learn earlier which will give them more confidence in learning and making great decisions for our future.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Mary Jane Tajeron

Ph or Email: 808-779-4996

Signature: *Mary Jane Tajeron*

Jenna Takenouchi

From: Misty Kjallman [misty@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 11:25 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Early Education Testimony
Attachments: Draft_testimony_-_educationcommittee.pdf

Testimony of _Misty Kjallman_____

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness

S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because: Study after study indicates that children do better in school if they have attended preschool prior to enrollment in kindergarten. With Hawaii's public school test scores far below the national average, I believe that it's particularly important to realize that if we want to maximize the future success of our children, that it is important to lay the foundation early. It's much more difficult to try to fix later as struggling under-prepared children get older and have fallen more and more behind their better-prepared peers. Access to quality pre-school education should be available to all and shouldn't be limited to only those fortunate families who are able to afford it.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: ___Misty L Kjallman_____

Ph or Email: _____808-214-0301_____

Signature: _____*Misty L Kjallman*_____

Testimony of Nancy Frazier

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
&S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

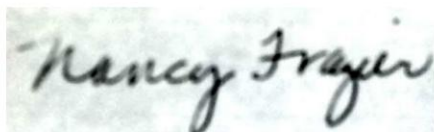
I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because:

All children should have the opportunity to learn and develop needed social skills. Preschool age is a critical time for brain development and thus learning. As a mother and grandmother I know preschool fosters a love for reading and a curiosity of their environment. The social interaction with other children teaches preschoolers how to get along with others, promotes good manners, and develops good habits. Preschool can reinforce lessons learned at home and can support and encourage parental involvement. Parents can learn parenting skills and meet other parents with children of the same age. Children who have gone to preschool are ready to learn and maximize their kindergarten experience.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on this measure and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Frazier". The ink is dark and the background is a light, slightly textured surface.

Nancy Frazier
87-1547 Nakii St.
Waianae, HI 96792
(808)668-2829
ncyfrz@aol.com

Testimony of Christmas Napua Kahawaiolaa

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because people are choosing to attend Family Child Interaction Learning Programs by choice because they get to learn alongside their children. Children are more ready for Kindergarten as a result of participating in Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool and many other FCILP like this one. Please support or include license exempt Family Child Interaction Learning Programs at equal funding amounts in SB 1093 and SB1095.

I would like to invite you to come out to any one of our Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool sites and see for yourself how well the caregiver child program works. We've had Representative Takashi Ohno come to read to our children and he seems to have enjoyed his time with us. I would like to invite more Representatives and Senators' to attend our Tutu and Me Traveling preschool program just give me a call my number is 524-7633 and I would love to set up a time for you.

Family Child Interactive Learning Programs are important because there are many reasons people can't attend certain programs. Many don't have transportation, can't pay money for preschool but program like ours can help them to help their children progress in the right direction and be ready when it's time to start school. If the state is saying that the children aren't ready for school what are they doing to get these children ready for school. Cutting out Pre-K and not making Kindergarten mandatory isn't going to work either. Help the children of Hawaii by funding FCILP so our keiki will have a chance. Parents are seeing positive impact it has on their keiki and our community. I would like to encourage Lawmakers to invest in our future of Hawai'i by supporting Family Interactive Learning Programs. Below is a support letter from one of our families and we have many more that says the same things.

"Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool is amazing. All three of my children gained so many valuable skills from being a part of this program. Besides being involved as a parent I will be continuing my financial support for Tutu and Me this year because I see the positive impact it has on our keiki and our community. I encourage everyone to invest in the future of Hawai'i by supporting Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool."

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Christams N. Kahawaiolaa
Ph or Email: 524-7633 nkahawaiolaa@pidfoundation.org
Signature: _____

March 12, 2013
Hearing on Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Committee on Education
Conference Room 309
In support of SB 1084

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Phyllis Ida and I am a retired DOE Special Educator, and the former 619 Coordinator for the Windward District. I also over see the grant administration for the Windward District P-3 Demonstration Project that focuses on keiki reading on grade level by third grade, providing model program of seamless early learning experiences from early childhood programs through elementary school for young children in the Windward District.

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of SB 1084, which proposes 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.

The Windward P- 3 Grant & its Demonstration Project appreciates and acknowledges the need for this particular measure in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children.

As a non-profit that works collaboratively with schools, communities, practitioners and families, we are interested in supporting the implementation of an early learning plan that provides assistance to families so that they are able to access high quality early learning opportunities of their choosing.

Supporting a variety of quality early learning experiences is crucial because approximately 5,000 keiki will be affected by the kindergarten age change that will happen in Hawaii's public schools starting with the 2014 -2015 school year.

By investing in Hawaii's youngest residents today with an early learning system that provides a plethora of quality learning experiences, we invest in a future in Hawaii that:

- Has higher retention and graduation rates
- Has lower teen pregnancy/parent rates
- Invests in education more than incarceration

It is time for us to seriously invest in our future by making an investment in our keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 1084.

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 9:25 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: sseal@iname.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebekah G Seal LaPlante	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose using funds for private preschools. Kindergarten should be made mandatory, Junior Kindergarten could be continued at public schools. This bill supports vouchers and I oppose that.

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OPPOSE SB-1084

Please vote "NO" on Senate Bill 1084 which takes the drastic step of amending the Hawaii state constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private and religious early childhood education programs. Although my wife and I do not oppose universal pre-kindergarten programs, we do oppose taxpayer funding of religious schools, including preschools.

If passed, this Constitutional amendment would force taxpayers to subsidize religious education. Yet, one of the most fundamental principles of religious liberty is that government should not compel any citizen to furnish funds in support of a religion with which he or she disagrees, or even a religion with which he or she *does* agree. Most religious schools either cannot or do not wish to separate the religious components of the education they offer from the academic programs. Parents certainly may choose such an education for their children, but no taxpayer should be required to pay for another's religious education.

The Hawaii Constitution's provision on public education has served the state well. It should not be amended to explicitly permit the funding of sectarian schools.

In the past religious groups have always opposed funding that goes against their religion. They should then respect others and not request all taxpayers to fund their religious endeavors.

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Aiu
Hwa Cha Aiu

2033 Nuuanu Ave., 14C
Honolulu, HI 96817-2530

Testimony of Sanoë Marfil

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because I am a mother. Early childhood has helped me prepare my three children for school. My oldest daughter, who is in grade 5, has participated in both Keiki Steps as well as Pūnana Leo. My middle child graduated from Pūnana Leo and my youngest is currently at Pūnana Leo.

Without these programs for my children I feel they may have not been ready for school. The early starts help prepare them and created three prepared, well rounded and confident children. We are grateful and fortunate to have afforded this opportunity.

I hope that all families are afforded this opportunity of education for their children .

He lei pōina 'ole ke keiki, a lei never forgotten is the beloved child.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Aloha,

Name: Sanoë Marfil

Ph or Email: 808-306-8161

sanoemarfil@yahoo.com

Testimony of _____

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because:

I sent my daughter to Preschool at just 2 years old. Nearly my entire paycheck was going towards to high cost of tuition and additional fees, activities, fieldtrips etc. I struggled, I still struggle but I would not take it back for anything in the world. My daughter is now 4 going on 5 and will be attending Kindergarten the 2013 – 2014 school years. At her latest parent teacher conference her teacher expressed her overwhelming joy and amazement at how advanced and intelligent my child is. She congratulated me but I had to also give some of my thanks to her earlier teachers. They have really helped to push and guide her to where she is at now. I have friends whom are parents of toddlers that wished and prayed they could send their child to school earlier than Kindergarten but just couldn't afford it. Those same friends now have their children in Kindergarten and watch as they struggle next to the children who have had the opportunity at early education. All of our children... All the keiki of Hawai'i deserve a chance to an early education!

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Sierra Lau

Ph or Email: sierralau@yahoo.com

Signature: Sierra Lau

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 10:42 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: stephenieblakemore@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/9/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephenie Blakemore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please support our public schools and fund the programs that all of our community can benefit from. It is not the job of the state or federal government to fund private education.

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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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 9:02 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: SLaracuate@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Laracuate	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill is unconstitutional since it will violate the principle of separation of Church and State if the State of Hawaii provided financial assistance to religious preschools.

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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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 4:17 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: terryjwalker@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terry J Walker	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.

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: EDU Testimony
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 9:59 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: FW: Early Childhood Bills

From: Luana Jardine [<mailto:lujardi@alulike.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 9:54 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Early Childhood Bills

Testimony of Venus Luana Jardine

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

Chair Roy Takumi, Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

My name is Venus Luana Jardine, and I am a kupuna of nineteen mo‘opuna (grandchildren). Of my 15 mo‘opuna who have already entered into Kindergarten, all fifteen entered into our Hawaii Public School System. But, only seven (7) have been fortunate to go to preschool. Statistics show that 42% of Kindergarteners had no previous preschool experience. Depending on the community, it may go up to 60%, of which my grandchildren represent since most of them reside in the Waianae District.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because I believe this is the time for a major change to our education system. As a state, we must value our young children and their early education. It is time for us to put value with dollars and invest in the education of Hawai‘i’s young keiki – for our children are the future of Hawaii. If there are no investments made, there are no returns of value!

Our young children have no voice, except for those who speak out for them. I am the voice today for my youngest mo‘opuna; 3-year old Keala, 2-year old Lawai‘a, and two 1-year olds Hilina‘i & Nainoa, who have not yet entered school. Their education for their future is of the utmost importance to me.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Venus Luana Jardine

Ph or Email: 232-6289

Signature: _____

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 4:29 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: boolahboy@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please stop this bill. This is not right to use public funds for private schools.

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Testimony of Christie Meali'i Richardson

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because:

I have two grandchildren who are at preschool age right now. I believe that ALL young children should have the best quality start to life, and that means preschool for 4-year-olds. They should be afforded the opportunity to develop their social skills while building their cognitive skills as well; and the earlier the better. These children should be able to receive the best education we can offer no matter what their economic background. It should be made available & affordable for everyone.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Ph or Email: _____

Signature: _____

Jenna Takenouchi

From: Jane Dickson [jdickson@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 2:05 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: early childhood testimony: Senate Bills 1084, 1093 and 1095

I have been lucky enough 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 with others, listen to a story, ask questions, explore the world around them, and value themselves as learners.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to support early childhood education.

Thank you,

Jane Dickson

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 2:01 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: lea_albert@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM
Attachments: Lea's Testimony.doc

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Albert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: Melisa Orozco Vargas [melisa.k.orozco@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 2:22 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Early Childhood Bills

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

My husband, Francisco Oliveira Vargas, and I are submitting our testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

We strongly support these bills and here's why.

We are the new parents of Koa Vargas, who is just about to turn one. In thinking about the future of our son and our family, we would have to say that the best option for us in terms of early education, would actually be for one of us to care for him until he is at least 4 years old. After that, however, who's to say what will happen?

We are twenty-first century parents. We work, go to school, take care of our baby, and try our best to care for ourselves. We live in my parents' home, along with my aunty, however, we cannot rely on any of them for childcare as they are working people. Retirement doesn't come early, nor easy for most folks, and the generation gap results in disparate ideas about child-rearing. Much of what I think I know about raising children probably is the result of my experience volunteering at a childcare facility in Brazil, and also the outreach work that we do through my job in Palolo.

I find that I am able to interact well with children primarily because I had an amazing early childhood education experience. I was in preschool from the age of 4. It was very expensive and my parents had to leave me there from 6:30AM until 5:30PM so they could afford to pay for my schooling and eventually that of my two siblings. Had I been left with my grandmother, who during those early years was grieving from the loss of my grandpa, I would have been severely obese and probably be diabetic now. When we get an early start in education the entire community benefits and you all know that!

Since we have no socialist policies that support stay-at-home parents, then we must have universal early childhood education opportunities available to all families regardless of income. We cannot be work- and stay-at-home parents because we are always preoccupied with work and it robs our children of the intimate learning experiences.

By supporting early childhood education programs and bills, this means that more people in our community will have to be educated about this subject matter. This is a GOOD thing! Maybe then, we will have better parents and a better community altogether.

Please support these bills. But in doing so, please be sure to include firm guidelines for education and training, wherein those caring for children are educated to be responsible, loving, and compassionate people, first and foremost. All of this will provide results in the near and long-term future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of those little ones who have so much to say, but not all the words to say them. They don't need to, it's in their eyes.

Melisa Orozco Vargas and Francisco Oliveira Vargas

melisa.k.orozco@gmail.com
753-5612

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Melisa Orozco
Outreach Coordinator
Service-Learning
Kapi'olani Community College
4303 Diamond Head Rd., Naio 214
Honolulu, HI 96816
Ph: 808-734-9503
Fax: 808-734-9287
melisao@hawaii.edu
kcc.hawaii.edu/object/servicelearning

Testimony of _____

In Support of bills
S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness
S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Time: 2:00pm
Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because: There is nothing, absolutely unequivocally nothing more important than education. The mere fact that we have to legislate over something as fundamental as vital only reveals our shortcomings in securing a future for our children and consequently the nation. We the richest nation in the world can't afford to give our children an education? We come in 17th. among developed nations. We should be embarrassed and ashamed. Instead we argue over its importance.

Mahalo again for the opportunity to testify on these measures and hope that you continue to move forward with this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Name: Gabriella Susan Fodor
Email: fodorsusan@gmail.com
Signature: _____

TERESA VAST

Early Care & Education Planning • Policy Research • Program & System Development

March 13, 2013

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair;
Representative Takahi Ohno, Vice-Chair; and
Members, House of Representatives Committee on Education

FROM: Teresa Vast, Early Childhood Policy Consultant

SUBJECT:

- S.B. 1084, S.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*
- S.B. 1093 S.D. 2, *Relating to School Readiness*
- S.B. 1095 S.D. 2, *Relating to Early Childhood Education*

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Committee Members:

I submit this testimony in support of all three measures under consideration today. As a private citizen and independent early childhood policy consultant, I urge you to pass these bills. These bills and their companion bills in the House have received overwhelming public support in testimony at previous hearings. I add my voice to those who support these measures. However, I recommend two revisions, as follows:

S.B. 1084, S.D. 1

The passage of the constitutional amendment is critical in order to partner with private early learning programs so our keiki will have access to high-quality early education in the year prior to kindergarten. Nearly all states with pre-kindergarten programs utilize a mixed delivery system consisting of private programs and public preschool options. States recognize that private programs fulfill a public purpose in providing early education services that are not always available in public schools.

I believe that the question to be printed on the ballot, as revised in S.D. 1, is vulnerable to defeat because it is unclear as to its intent. It reads:

"Shall the appropriation of public funds be permitted for the support or benefit of private early childhood education programs, as provided by law?"

As it currently reads, the proposed ConAm seems to propose using public money to support or benefit private programs. The key point of the proposed amendment is that public funds are intended to benefit and support young children, not programs. Private early education programs have the capacity to deliver that benefit – they are a vehicle with a public purpose. Please consider rewording the question and ask your legal experts to review these suggested revisions of the current draft:

"Shall the appropriation of public funds to private early childhood education programs be permitted so such programs may fulfill the public purpose of educating young children prior to kindergarten entry, as provided by law?"

OR

"Shall the appropriation of public funds to private early childhood education programs be permitted to provide young children with early learning opportunities prior to kindergarten entry, as provided by law?"

Voters deserve to have a clear idea of the true purpose for the proposed amendment. The current wording of the question obscures the intent of this measure.

S.B. 1093 S.D. 2

The proposed school readiness program is a critical step in the development of Hawaii's early learning system. It provides access to early learning opportunities to keiki in the year prior to kindergarten, starting with those who will be affected by the change in kindergarten eligibility in 2014. However the specific limitation on family income imposed in Section 2-d of S.D. 2 will leave some children without access to preschool or other school readiness programs.

The original bill stated that program shall assist low- and moderate-income families. The intent, I believe, is to help all families who could not otherwise pay for their children to participate in an early learning program in the year prior to kindergarten. This new version of the bill, S.D. 2, imposes a specific family income limit for children to participate in the proposed school readiness program by stating in Section 2-d,

"low- and moderate- income family" means a family whose income is no more than two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty level.

The problem is that this limit will very likely deny otherwise eligible children access to preschool. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) recently calculated that Hawaii's families seeking to meet just their basic needs would require a greater level of income than this limit. Its biennial study, *Self-Sufficiency Income Standard: Estimates for Hawaii*, defines economic self-sufficiency as "the amount of money that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs without government and/or other subsidies." According to the DBEDT study, a single parent with one preschooler required an income of more than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level to meet just basic needs, including the average cost of child care, in 2011. The self-sufficiency income standard for a family with two parents, one preschooler, and one school-age child was identified as greater than 266% FPL. The income requirement would be higher to pay the cost of preschool, which is higher than the average for all types of child care.

To avoid leaving some of the children in the target group without access to preschool, please strike this definition from the bill. It is not needed. I respectfully recommend that any definition of "low- and moderate-income" or a cap on income eligibility be addressed in administrative rules rather than in legislation. Administrative rules can identify a valid methodology for determining ability to pay and need for assistance, thereby ensuring access to "school readiness programs" for all of Hawaii's age-eligible keiki, regardless of their families' ability to pay for such programs.

In summary, I ask that you seriously consider the issues I have raised about S.B. 1084, S.D. 1 and S.B. 1093, S.D. 2 and revise those measures accordingly. I urge passage of all three bills before this Committee. If you should need additional information or clarification of my testimony, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your support of early learning opportunities for Hawaii's keiki.



Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 8:52 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: rtmb@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM
Attachments: OPPSB1084.docx

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Beth Tubbs	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Opposed to SB 1084.

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: Paul McKimmy [paul.mckimmy@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 8:59 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Support for S.B. 1093 SD2, S.B. 1095 SD2 & S.B. 1084 SD1

Testimony of Paul McKimmy

In Support of bills

S.B. 1093 SD2 Related to School Readiness

S.B. 1095 SD2 Related to Early Childhood Education
& S.B. 1084 SD1 Related to Constitutional Amendment

Addressed to House Committee on Education

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Room 309

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

I am submitting my testimony on the early childhood bills before you related to School Readiness, the Constitutional Amendment and Early Childhood Education.

I am a strong supporter of this legislation because:

As a parent of a four-year old daughter, I recognize the enormous developmental growth that quality preschool has provided. It is immediately obvious that such service has prepared her for entry into kindergarten. It is also obvious that the financial burden of paying for preschool is beyond the means of many parents. We need to make sure that ALL of our children can benefit from the developmental benefits of preschool.

Please support these measures

Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:38 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: makaalar@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1084

Submitted on: 3/12/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makaala Rawlins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Jenna Takenouchi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 12:08 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: wybart4@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1093

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for EDN on Mar 13, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wyatt Bartlett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair, Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Education Re: Support for SBs 1084 SD1, 1093 SD2, and
1095 SD2, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION and SCHOOL READINESS. Honorable
Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Committee Members: Thank you for allowing me
to submit testimony in support of Senate Bills 1084 SD1, 1093 SD2, and 1095 SD2.
All three of these measures are critical to ensuring that Hawaii's four-year-olds
will have the quality early learning experience they deserve. These measures
are 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. For example, we know that 85% of a child's
brain is developed by the age of 5. These factors, altogether, are key components
in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults. Many studies have proven
that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short- and long-
term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1093 SD2 and
SB 1095 SD2 would provide parents with more access to these essential programs
and also have the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early
childhood education costs; currently families in Hawaii pay on average \$720/month
per child for preschool. Hawaii is a place that strives to level the playing
field for its citizens – this is one way we can help make that happen at the
earliest and most important time. We also know that now, more than ever,
Hawaii's voters support a public role in helping parents send their four-year-
olds to the preschool program of their choice. Nearly 75% of registered voters
support state funding for a public-private preschool system in Hawaii. It is
important to secure a solid foundation for our children in order to ensure a
more successful, healthy, and promising future for us all. Thank you for the
opportunity to submit testimony in support of these measures.

Twani Alexander
Alfred Castle
Rosetta Hiranaga
Audrey Kido
Kathy Oshiro
Diane Lobre
Kay Lipps
Carlynn Wolfe
Paulline Young
Keriann Osada
Ladylyn Kamelo
Christy Ryan
Ravandolyn Galvin
Annie Kichman
David Castillo
Liz Castillo
Nancy Rose Perry-Kepoo
A.C.
Kimberly Werner
Janet Ramelb
Lisa Uyehara
Nohea Lelewi
Michelle Johnson
Christy Jones
Desiree Delos Santos
Lana Fernandez
Gayle Tanoura
Annmarie Bennett
Dan Yoshizumi Jr.
Michelle Birdsall
Charelene Doi
Charlene Robles
Karisha Lawas
Diane Gates-Hawkins
Janet Taylor
Chanda Diocares
Debbie Morrow
Rachel Donahue
Mark Ebert
Esperanza Siyal
Jodie Unten
George Donahue
Riza Marie Gatdula

Chuck Larson
Marsha Jones
Aubrey pucan Hester
Aileen Alolino
Sister Aurelia Sanchez
Lori Weatherwax
Roma Johnson
JoAnn Yukimura
Lisa Uyehara
Pua Tandal
Amanda Sue Mahuka
Shela Mejia
Kari Candalay
Sweets Wright
Melanie Padgett
Christine Naone
Sonya Chung-Hirano
Anna Peters
Cheryl Cudiamat
Paula Moriguchi
Kiana Shiroma
Terry Yoshinaga
Susan Emley
Jeffrey Piontek
Ann Sullivan
David Anderson
Mele Cachero-Wimbish
Cheryl Tabaco
Leslene Rapisura
Tianni Kawaa
Chanelle Kukona Lucero
Jason Kayo
Mary Shoemaker
Barbara Stahly
Kate Wescott
Afan Wood
Curtis Wood
Leona Blankley
Jeffrey Tripp
Heather Thomas
Ailina Tagupa Laborte
Beverly Orillo
Jennifer Bryant

Cami Kloster
Arnold Padgett
Kekoa Beaupre
Renee Espiau
Jayce Arakaki
Carl Daeufer
Robert Wo
Su-Jin Tripp
Annette Okimoto
Shirena Leong
Phyllis Ida
Celia Taka
Christmas Kahawaiolaa
Susan Gabriella Fodor
Betsy Behnke
Ester Byun
Lani Julian
Cheryl Campbell
Sarah May Woofruff
Dawnelle Nahinu
Jim Eberle
Christine Mokuahi
Sharon Tsai
Jennifer Cirillo
Shalei Campbell Bagood
Bill Messer
Janet Messer
Rachel Dela Cruz
Charlene Burgess
Angeline Geldhof
Mindy Bailey
Noelani Bouchard
Katie Dye
Lori Abbey-MacDonald
Keira McCoy
Greg Farstrup
Pat Farstrup
Alison Swigart
Wayne Watkins
Janice Kealoha-Gier
Isaac Kosasa
Kerrie Urosevich
Christine Jackson

Debbie Amase
Susan Lynn Smith
Steven Sakata
Todd Nitta
Tracy Nakashima
Peter Naoi Yuen
Chloe Fonacier
Chante Davis Smith
Lionisa Raymond
Illana Anastasia-Andaya Wright
Laurie Ganike
Sue Sadural
Colleen Achuld
Reekah Gomes
Deanna Smith
Raycine Popa
Alesia Paulos
Leona Watson
Georgiana Rosa
Nalei Arisga-Faurot
Anna Porter
Diane Arconao
Jennifer Veja De Vera
Margarette Keegan
Aida San Miguel
Jesse Rabot
Katy Chen
Kim Hudson Chock
Diana Arocha
Lorraine Bennett