

SB1084

Relating to Early Learning
System; ConAm
EDU/JDL, WAM



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony of Governor Neil Abercrombie
In **Support** of
S.B. 1084, Proposing An Amendment to Article X, Section 1,
Of The Hawaii State Constitution To Permit The Appropriation Of Public Funds For
Private Early Childhood Education Programs

Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 1, 2013
1:15 p.m., Room 414

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Education and Judiciary and Labor Committees:

Good afternoon. I am here today to speak in **strong support of Senate Bill 1084**.

We know that too many of our children are entering school without the basics needed to succeed in school. We know that many of these children have not attended preschool.

We also know that high-quality early learning has immediate and long-term benefits not only for the children participating in such programs, but also for the societies in which they live. Local studies indicate that every \$1 invested in early learning generates \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii.

In my testimony on Wednesday for Senate Bills 1093 and 1095, which establish a School Readiness Program and Early Childhood Education Program, respectively, I mentioned the need for a Constitutional amendment.

Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution restricts the use of public funds for the support or benefit of private educational institutions.

Because we envision the delivery of Program services through partnerships with the private programs, which have been the mainstay providers for our families and indicate available capacity, and because of explicit educational goals and standards, I have proposed this Constitutional amendment, under the advice of the Attorney General, to allow EOEL to contract with private early childhood education programs. If approved by the Legislature, the Constitutional amendment would appear on the 2014 election ballot to be ratified by

voters.

Only when voters ratify the Constitutional amendment will we be able to implement the high-quality early childhood education program described in S.B. 1095.

What are the differences between the School Readiness Program (S.B. 1093) – what we can implement *now* without a Constitutional amendment – and the Early Childhood Education Program (S.B. 1095)?

- The School Readiness Program:
 - Will help a child prepare to learn by focusing more on socialization skills.
 - Services can only be delivered through DHS-licensed child care providers and DOE.
 - Immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. Provides services to the gap group resulting from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age.
 - Establishes the foundation/infrastructure for the Early Childhood Education Program.
- The Early Childhood Education Program:
 - The large, full-scale program that will help a child with social-emotional development but also intellectual development. Incorporates higher standards for curriculum, assessment, and teacher quality. Tied to educational outcomes.
 - 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.

Attached is a table that explains how all three bills would work together to improve outcomes for children and the state.

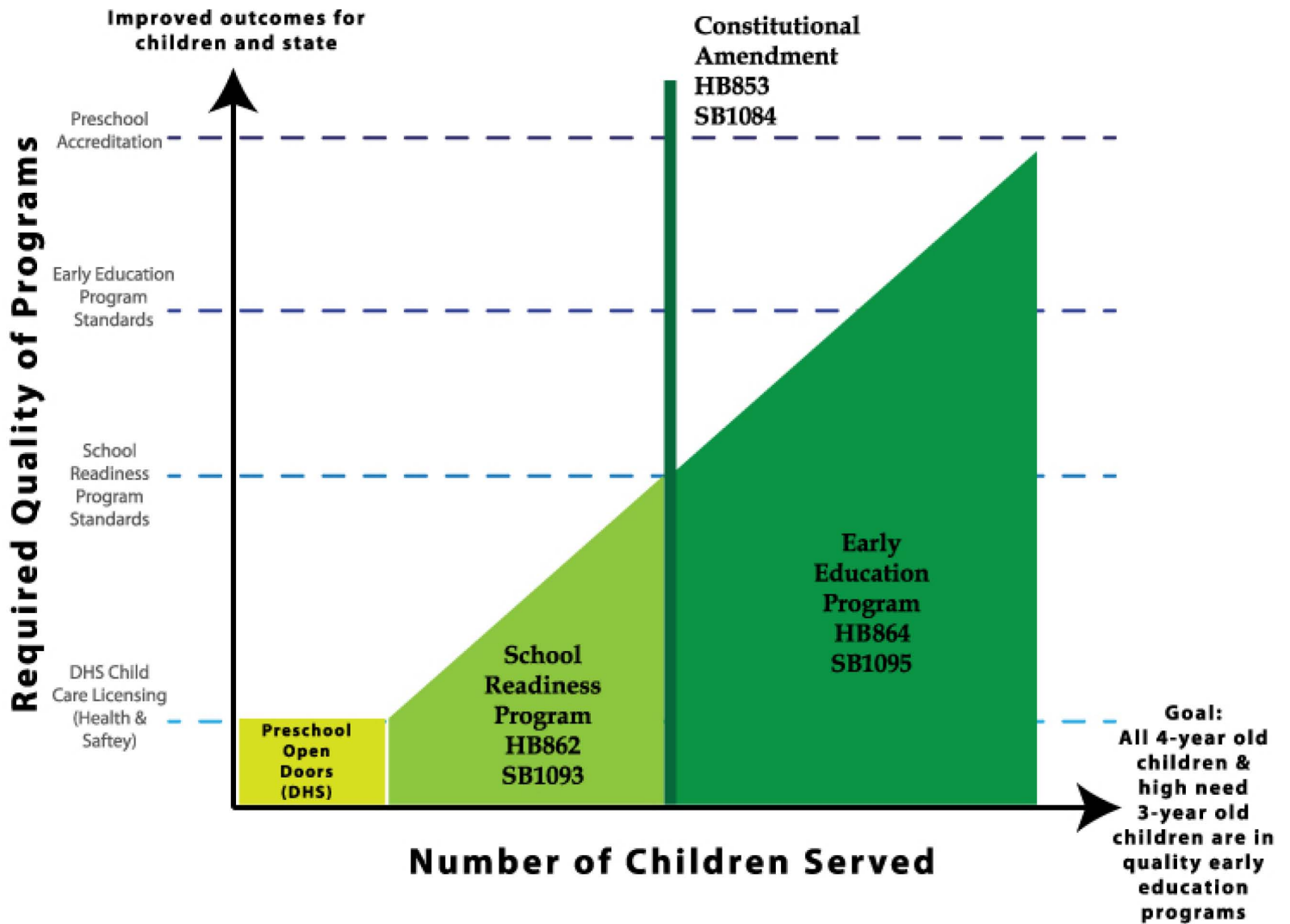
The Constitutional amendment and S.B. 1095 will help the State meet its goal of providing a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children and help our children demonstrate sustained success in school and beyond.

I urge you to support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My staff and Terry Lock, director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, are here to answer any questions you may have.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU





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

February 1, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **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**

Hearing: Friday, February 1, 2013; 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1084 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 EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/01/2013

Committee: Senate Education/Senate
Judiciary and Labor

Department: Education

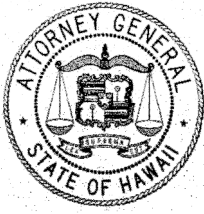
Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: 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

Purpose of Bill: 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.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education 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.



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

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 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.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2013 **TIME:** 1:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 414

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

Chairs Tokuda and Hee and Members of the Committees:

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 S.B. No. 1095 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 private early childhood education programs. This amendment is necessary to enable the State to contract with interested and qualified private providers needed for the early childhood education program.



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Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION
AND THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2103

RE: 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

To the Honorable Chairs Hee and Tokuda and Members of the Committee(s):

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is **opposed to SB 1084**, to use public taxpayer funds 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.

As such, HSTA is in **opposition of SB 1084** for the State to use public funds to benefit private early childhood education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Kauai United Way

Testimony on SB1084 **Constitutional Amendment**
Senate Committees on Education and Judiciary and Labor
Friday, February 1, 2013, State Capitol, Room 414 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Hee, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro 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 and HB864. 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
Child & Family Service

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





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

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

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

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013

Subject: 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

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports SB 1084. 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@hawaiieyc.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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC



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The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature, 2013
State of Hawai'i

TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2013

TIME: 1:15 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 414
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

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

Chair Tokuda, Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee,

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

SB 1084 proposes an amendment to the Hawai'i State Constitution to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs. The private sector has largely supported Hawai'i's early childhood education efforts; we humbly ask for continued support through the funding mechanism outlined in HB 853 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' 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



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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 Hawai'i'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.



Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Friday, February 1, 2013 at 1:15 pm

by
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean
Dr, Joe Peters

SB 1084
Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chairpersons Tokuda and Hee, and members of the Committees on Education and Judiciary and Labor:

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

The Education Division at Chaminade University of Honolulu is in full **support of SB 1084** to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs. In looking at the issue of capacity and expertise, private programs have a long history of providing quality learning environments with highly-skilled teachers. These teachers are trained specifically for the early learning classroom and the curriculum is developmentally appropriate to meet the diverse needs of the children they serve.

It is important to note that for every \$1 invested today there will be \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii. Additionally, we also support the following joint position statement of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Peters". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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.



Testimony to the Senate Committees on Education and Judiciary and Labor

Friday, February 1, 2013

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 414

RE: Relating to Early Childhood Education – Senate Bill 1095

Chairs Tokuda and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and Members of the Committees:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. We support Senate Bill 1084 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



February 1, 2013

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator, Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Comments on 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.

The Good Beginnings Alliance offers the following comments regarding 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. We appreciate and acknowledge the need for this particular measure in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with the early childhood education plan as directed in SB 1095, and more completely in the EOEL's Blueprint of the Early Learning Program.

As such, we have no objections to the measure should the Senate find it appropriate to proceed in this manner. Our interest is in supporting and facilitating implementation of an early learning program that will deliver needed assistance to families to access the high quality early learning program of their choice in the soonest and safest way possible; most urgently for those families of four-year-olds, some of whom are late born and will no longer have access to the state's Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-15 school year.

We therefore encourage the Committees to also consider, if necessary, additional ways in which existing state programs and Departments could be employed to carry out the EOEL's mission to provide high quality school readiness programming to Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children should a constitutional amendment not be approved by registered voters in 2016.

As we all know, 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 (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of school readiness programming. 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.

GBA looks forward to the discussion around this and related measures as the legislative session proceeds. This measure, if approved, would provide another mechanism for helping the EOEL implement the early childhood education program Hawaii requires. Thank you for considering our comments regarding SB 1084.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Zysman', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 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

**Senate Committee on Education
Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Friday, February 1, 2013, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

Honorable Chair Tokuda 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 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.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director
IMUAlliance



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

January 31, 2013

Senator Tokuda and Senator Hee
Chairs of the Committee on Education and Committee on Judiciary and Labor – State Capitol

RE: SB1084 – 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 Chairs Tokuda and Hee, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro, and Members of the
Committee,

The Community Children's Councils (CCCs) **strongly supports** SB1084, 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)



HAWAII STATE PTSA

every child. one voice.

765 Amana Street · Suite 308 · Honolulu · HI · 96814

TEL: (808) 943-2042 · FAX: (808) 945-2042 · EMAIL: histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com

January 31, 2013

Senator Tokuda and Senator Hee

Chairs of the Committee on Education and Committee on Judiciary and Labor – State Capitol

RE: SB1084 – 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 Chairs Tokuda and Hee, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee,

The PTSA **supports** SB562 which proposes which allows public funds to be used for the support or benefit or private childhood education programs.

Research continuously supports early interventions immediate and long-term effects on children. Early childhood intervention programs have been shown to yield benefits in academic achievement, behavior, educational progression and attainment, delinquency and crime, and labor market success, among other domains. Furthermore, well-designed early childhood interventions have been found to generate a return to society ranging from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for each dollar spent on the program. (Lynn et. al., 2005)

Without the use of public funds for the use of private childhood education programs, the overwhelming impact of children entering pre-school will be too much for these institutions. Furthermore, only a portion of parents will be able to afford the opportunity to send their children to preschool and inevitability it will be the children who require pre-school the most who will probably not have access to this opportunity. This will result in a delay in much needed opportunity to obtain skills.

The Hawaii Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, also known as the Hawaii State PTSA, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of more than 7,000 dedicated to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. Chartered in 1926, the Hawaii State PTSA is Hawaii's oldest and largest child advocacy organization. We are a state charter of the [National PTA](#), made up of local units throughout the State of Hawaii.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to your continued support during this legislative session.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Liz Sager

President
(Original signatures are on file)

Jessica Wong-Sumida

VP-Legislation



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

February 1, 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

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: 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

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Hee and Members of the Committees,

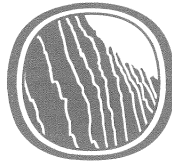
The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** SB 1084. We understand that this constitutional amendment is necessary to allow the State to expand the capacity of private preschools to serve 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 embracing research-based, developmentally appropriate and inclusive practices. If approved, SEAC will reach out to its stakeholder groups to help educate the public. We will emphasize the necessity of committing to better educational outcomes for young children as 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



HAROLD K.L. CASTLE
FOUNDATION

January 31, 2013

*Closing the achievement
and preparation gaps
in public education*

*Restoring nearshore
marine ecosystems*

*Strengthening Windward
Oahu communities*

Hon. Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB1084 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Dear Chairs Hee and Tokuda and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express support for SB1084. This bill would provide the necessary constitutional authority to implement a high-quality, public-private system of early childhood education for all four-year-olds in Hawaii. Hawaii remains one of only 11 states that provide no significant state funding for early childhood education. With nearly 43% of children entering kindergarten without preschool, our state's education achievement gap cannot be closed, and our Department of Education spends more time and money trying to catch these children up.

Currently, the Hawaii State Constitution does not allow for benefits to be provided to private schools for educational purpose. However, it makes sense as we build a robust preschool system for all four-year-olds for public funds to be provided to private early childhood education programs where capacity and expertise lie. Those public funds would not be used only to help families with financial needs; this will keep the costs of the state system down.

As you may know, the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation has invested in a variety of measures to eliminate the achievement gap and the college preparation gap in Hawaii, primarily through the improvement of instructional leadership in our schools. However, closing those gaps is not achievable unless the state makes it possible for all children to enjoy quality preschool. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to your committees.

Sincerely yours,

Terrence R. George
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

1197 Auloa Road
Kailua, Hawai'i
96734

tel 808-263-7073

fax 808-261-6918

www.castlefoundation.org



February 1, 2013
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO
THE JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION AND JUDICIARY AND LABOR

RE: 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

Chairs Tokuda and Hee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro and the members of the committees,

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

HAIS supports SB1084 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.

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Friday, February 1, 2013, 1:15 pm
Conference Room 414

Subject: **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.**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of SB 1084, 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.

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.

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

Hawaii boasts a strong cohort of early education programs. Rather than construct new programs, it is wise and cost-saving to contract with already present 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

SB1084

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/JDL on Feb 1, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gale McNish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support for SB1084

As a longtime early childhood educator on Maui, I am in support of making the changes needed to the state's Constitution, which would allow the state to provide funding for educational purposes to private schools and programs. The success of the envisioned Early Childhood Education Program lies in its implementation through both the public and private sectors. It's essential that public funding for educating our young children be delivered in a way that provides for high quality programs in a mixture of settings.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1084 on Feb 1, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:11:03 AM

SB1084

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for EDU/JDL on Feb 1, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge you to strongly support this measure for the sake of the keiki of Hawai'i. They deserve a good foundation for success in education and life! We lag behind most States in education of our children. This must be addressed. Mahalo for your consideration of this important legislation. Teresa Parsons, Nurse Practitioner

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 – SB 1084

We oppose the “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”. By turning public education over to private entities, we are reducing education to a commodity up for competitive bid.

This neoliberal agenda is limiting any possibility for equity within early childhood by taking public funds (Kozol, 2007) in order to further a narrow, standardized curriculum and continue high-stakes testing (Hursh, 2007; Kumashiro, 2008; Lipman, 2004). The continued use of fear and crisis by the government and advocacy groups in regard to early childhood is allowing for the privileging of market strategies over public education (Kumashiro, 2008, 2012).

By passing this bill, Hawaii is setting the stage to continue to blame children, families, and teachers for children not being “ready” instead of the inequity enacted across education in the state. Compliance and conformity will be commonplace and equity and democracy will be in the margin and may even disappear.

Further, private programs are not held to a comprehensive holistic care and education curriculum for all children regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, gender, and religion and could be totally academic oriented and not developmentally appropriate. This amendment opens the door to skill training to meet standards and benchmarks. If, in fact, the populations who cannot afford private education (preschool as well as K-3, the parameters of Early Childhood) are low income, minorities and families with children with disabilities, then for equity, these private preschools must accept all students in these categories (regardless of religion, family configuration and sexual orientation of parents).

With the passing of this bill, the definition of “high quality” in terms of early childhood programs is defined through which private schools receive monies. Bills may be written and passed in order to ensure certain private programs receive monies. For example, if one program is willing to comply with a certain list of standards and contribute to the development of data system, then the program can be listed as high quality. Yet, there are a variety of child-centered forms (High Scope, Bank Street, Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia Inspired) with differing philosophies, which may not test and teach discrete skills for literacy and math (using testing of math and pre-reading skills as a metric for success, is inappropriate and narrows the curriculum).

The passing of this bill begins a decline in early childhood education as equity disappears in the name of market and money.

Submitted by:

Jeanne Marie Iorio, EdD

(EdM, Harvard University; EdD, Teachers College, Columbia University)

Susan Matoba Adler, PhD

(PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

January 31, 2013