

# SB1093

Relating to School  
Readiness

EDU/HMS, WAM



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

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

Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
January 30, 2013  
1:15 p.m. and 1:20 p.m., Room 414

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

Good afternoon. I am here today to speak in **strong support of both Senate Bill 1093 and Senate Bill 1095.**

In my State of the State address, I emphasized that the greatest unfunded liability we have is the failure to address early childhood development and education in Hawaii. Today we are placing an unfair burden on our students, parents, and teachers in expecting them to make up for our failure to support children in their most formative years. In Hawaii, an alarming number of our children are entering school without the basics needed to succeed in school. In three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012-2013, the majority of students did not start school with basic skills in reading and mathematics nor the social-emotional behaviors necessary for success in school. Statewide, about 43% of students who entered kindergarten had not attended preschool.

High-quality early learning has a larger, long-term impact on our state. Local studies indicate that every \$1 invested in early learning generates \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings for Hawaii. Societies that invest in early learning programs boast higher levels of educational attainment; reduced homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and better overall social and economic well-being.

**S.B. 1093**

Therefore, I am proposing the School Readiness Program as the first phase of this high-quality early learning program. The School Readiness Program will help children develop the skills and attitudes they need to be ready for kindergarten. School readiness is the key

to efficient and effective learning. The School Readiness Program will be delivered through contracts with DHS-licensed child care providers and the Department of Education that meet quality standards. We are not talking about babysitting; we are talking about programs that prepare children for school.

The Program must be in place to provide services to the gap group that will result from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age (children must be five years old by July 31 of the school year to enroll in DOE kindergarten) mandated by Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. DOE estimates there are 5,100 children in the gap group – those born between Aug. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. It is critical that we act now to make sure these children do not fall off the cliff – we must have the School Readiness Program ready for them.

### **S.B. 1095**

The School Readiness Program will lay the foundation for the high-quality early learning program that will have greater educational impact – what is needed to truly make a difference in our children’s outcomes. The Early Childhood Education Program encapsulates the large, full-scale educational program for all children in the year before kindergarten, as described in S.B. 1095.

The Early Childhood Education Program will produce positive educational and developmental outcomes for children to help them be ready for kindergarten and succeed in school. This will be a high-quality program with curriculum goals that are met through developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate teaching practices in the context of positive teacher-child-family relationships. The program will be delivered through contracts with private early childhood education programs and DOE, that meet educational outcomes through the quality standards established by EOEL.

Because we envision service through partnerships with the private programs, which have been the mainstay providers for our families and indicate available capacity, and because of explicit and higher educational goals and standards, I have proposed a Constitutional amendment (S.B. 1084) to allow EOEL to contract with private early childhood education programs. 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.

S.B. 1093 immediately allows more children to be ready to learn on day one of kindergarten. S.B. 1095 expands on this investment with higher standards and by serving more children. By investing in our children, we are investing in our future as well as theirs. Our approach is ambitious but pragmatic.

This is my highest priority. I urge you to support these bills. 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.



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

**Date:** 01/30/2013

**Committee:** Senate Education  
Senate Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1093. 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.

Hawaii's School Readiness Program will offer children statewide access to quality early learning opportunities. The Department is poised to work with the Executive Office on Early Learning in their efforts to promote school readiness initiatives to prepare Hawaii's young children physically, cognitively, linguistically, socially, and emotionally the year before they enter public school kindergarten.

The Department also supports effective school readiness activities for incoming kindergarten students that do not adversely impact the fiscal priorities set forth in the Department's budget.



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

January 30, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

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

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1093 - RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 2013; 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 1093 is to establish a statewide school readiness program consisting of providers of school readiness services to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. The statewide school readiness program will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and is a major component of the early learning system established pursuant to section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Excepts the Executive Office on Early Learning and its programs from the purview of the Board of Education and Department of Education.

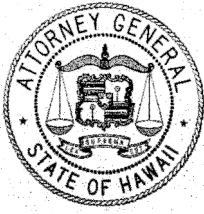
**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this Administration bill. Many of the families of late-born children affected by the change in kindergarten entry age in the 2014-2015 school year will be forced to find child care arrangements for an additional year. Without the implementation of the

School Readiness Program, these displaced children may not attend preschool in this extra year prior to kindergarten entry. Many working families are not able to afford the cost of preschool for an additional year as they struggle to make ends meet in Hawaii, one of the highest cost of living states in the nation.

The proposed School Readiness Program would provide services on a sliding fee scale to all eligible children and establish program requirements to ensure participating programs' curricula will be aligned with the Department of Education's Common Core Standards. The program standards the School Readiness Program will develop high minimum licensing standards, including higher staff qualifications and lower staff to child ratios, and provide families and children access to quality programs. The School Readiness Program would also provide participating preschool programs with opportunities for support and resources to continuously improve their program standards and opportunities for staff professional development.

The Executive Office on Early Learning plans to work with public and private partners in building capacity within the State's existing preschool programs and also seek to expand the Pre-Plus program with more programs on Department of Education campuses.

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



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 1093, RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 30, 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. Sugauma, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

This bill seeks to establish a statewide school readiness program to assist families prepare their children for success in school. The school readiness program, which would focus on toilet training and socialization skills, is just the first step towards the Governor's broader goal of a statewide early childhood education program for all children in the State. This investment will not only help our children to realize their full potential, but will also benefit the societies in which they live.



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Senate Committees on Education and Human Services**

**S.B.1093, Relating to School Readiness**

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

**January 30, 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 develop a statewide school readiness  
5 program that will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning to assist families in  
6 preparing their children for success in school. The Department of Health (DOH) believes that the  
7 foundation for school readiness is in the health and development of children including the core  
8 capabilities such as motor, cognitive, and social skills. DOH believes that early childhood development  
9 begins prenatally with the care of the mother and the responsive families and communities in which  
10 children grow and develop and that children need the continuum of support to achieve their optimal  
11 development

12 The DOH supports the Executive Office on Early Learning's School Readiness Program as it  
13 will help efforts to improve the comprehensive early childhood system in Hawaii. We look forward to  
14 working with the Executive Office on Early Learning to ensure that this is a program that supports  
15 children and families throughout the state.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Human Services

January 30, 2013 at 1:15 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

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

### SB 1093: RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

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

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports SB 1093 that establishes a statewide school readiness program consisting of eligible providers of school readiness services and administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning. The goal is to assist families in preparing their children to succeed in school by providing access to services, prioritizing four-year-old children not eligible to attend public kindergarten and underserved or at-risk children.

Numerous studies have shown the link between children's readiness to enter school and subsequent school success. Programs that develop a child's cognitive, emotional, linguistic, social and physical readiness develop capacity for doing well in kindergarten and beyond. Furthermore, there is evidence that quality early childhood care that promotes readiness for school has longer-term effects on later achievement and adult outcomes. This has enormous social and economic implications for our community and the quality of life in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i is an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and before that, the Early Learning Council. We recognize that it is critical that the earliest foundations for citizenship, career and college readiness are first established in our youngest children through programs that support their initial readiness for school. We therefore urge your support for SB 1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony on SB1093 and SB1095

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

1:15 pm, State Capitol Room 414

By LYNN HAMMONDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

January 30, 2012

Dear Chair Tokuda:

I am writing in support of SB1093, Relating to School Readiness and SB1095, Relating to Early Childhood Education. A multitude of research, a lifetime of teaching experiences and common sense has proven to me that any investment in early learning reaps countless rewards for children, families and communities. I applaud the efforts of the Governor, the Legislature and the Executive Office on Early Learning for recognizing the importance of early learning and developing programs for young children.

Support for school readiness and an early learning system is the best investment in our future and in education that we can make and lays a strong foundation for learning in the grades that follow. When children come to school cognitively, linguistically, socially and emotionally ready to learn the elementary grades can build on these experiences. In addition, the opportunity for earlier intervention for “at risk” children may avert future learning difficulties. I strongly support both the School Readiness Program and the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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January 30, 2013

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Education Committee

From: Christina Cox, President  
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii

Subject: SB 1093 Relating to Early Childhood Education

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 by the Woman's Board of Missions to serve the children of immigrant workers. We serve over 900 children per year in 7 NAEYC accredited preschools on Oahu. More than 50% of our students are low-income and over 80% go on to attend DOE elementary schools. We manage tuition subsidies from 7 different sources, each with its own set of requirements. We have a \$7 million annual operating budget with 130 employees. KCAA has just completed the construction of a \$3.2 million professional development center for early educators, Hawaii's first! It is located on our Mother Rice property in Moiliili. The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Early Education and Development is funded exclusively by private businesses and Hawaii's dedicated philanthropic community. KCAA's Board was instrumental in this effort and is committed to working with the early childhood community to increase the number of qualified teachers, to improve their practice and to improve outcomes for Hawaii's *keiki*.

Please note that while I presently serve as the center-based program provider representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board and also serve as the Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii which represents more than 60 centers throughout the State I am testifying today as the President of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a position that I have held for the past 12 years.

So much has changed during my 30 years working in the field of early education in Hawaii. It used to be that having teachers who genuinely enjoyed working with young children and who possessed a joy of learning, a natural curiosity about the world and were willing to share that with the children in their care, was enough. We now need to be sure that our teachers possess not only those important characteristics, but also the knowledge and skills required to help our children compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We now know that 85% of a child's brain develops in the first few years of life and that there are critical experiences we should provide a young child with in order to optimize growth and development.

- Early experiences have a decisive impact on the actual architecture of the brain and on the nature and extent of adult capacities.
- Brain development is non-linear; there are prime times for acquiring different kinds of knowledge and skills
  - This becomes particularly important to understand in providing support for at-risk children.
- By the time children from middle-income families are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade they know about 12,000 words compared to low income children who know just 4,000 words, one third as many as their peers. This gap begins in the early years and research has repeatedly confirmed that early education makes all the difference in school success.

Many of us in the early education community have been working towards the establishment of an early learning system for over 20 years. We have worked on multiple legislative initiatives together. This time seems to be different; all of the pieces are in place.

We have a Governor who has made early childhood development and education a top priority, we have the support of both the philanthropic and business communities and we have seasoned legislators who possess a deep understanding of the issue and who are committed to working together with the broader community to create a better future for our youngest citizens.

I support the passage of SB 1093 to pave the way for the establishment of a statewide school readiness program that will ultimately provide a variety of choices for families and which reflects the values of our host culture and of our rural communities.

We will need to pay special attention to the nuts and bolts of this program design if it is to achieve its goal. The program should have achievable program standards, and provide programs with adequate resources, both human and financial, to succeed.

When all is said and done we need to join together, to find some common ground and to see our children as an investment rather an expense.



Hawaii's Enrichment & Educational Professionals  
A Non-Profit Organization

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www.kamaainakids.com

January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Buffy Owens, Vice President Kama`aina Kids

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts as they relate to SB1093. My name is Buffy Owens and I am the Vice President of Kama`aina Kids as well as the Child Care Business Coalition representative on the DHS Advisory Council. In addition I have recently served on the QIRS Build Initiative team as our state begins to pilot the new QIRS system. I have been in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 45 years and have operated both Not for Profit agencies as well as for profit and public companies. I have operated in multiple states across many regulatory guidelines. As the Vice President of Kama`aina Kids I am heavily involved with the preschool and school age components of the company. Kama`aina Kids currently serves 10,000 children each day on 4 of our State's islands. We employ approximately 1,000 staff, the majority of which are working with the children whose lives we are dedicated to support. We operate 63 A+ locations, 19 preschools and 4 First to Work sites in cooperation with the Department of Human Services. The First to Work sites support families who are re-entering the workforce by providing quality reliable child care services while they seek employment and move from reliance upon state funds to a self-supporting member of our society.

I am trying to better understand how SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success, will be operated. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility. I applaud the creation of this bill and support the commitment to school readiness. However, there are many unknowns.

I believe that a joint partnership between existing Early Childhood providers be considered of prime importance to the success of this program. These providers are currently licensed and regulated and most are accredited by one of several accreditation bodies within the United States.

This commitment to quality is an important testimony to the current Early Childhood providers and one that should not be overlooked. In addition, these providers currently work within the existing support systems such as Preschool Open Doors, which is operated by the Department of Human Services as well as other financial supports such as Keiki O Ka` Aina and Pauahi Scholars. Also supporting the Early Childhood community are multiple foundations whose commitment is invaluable. All of this infrastructure should be considered as you move forward.

We no longer question, for it has been proven, that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. A statewide school readiness program for late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will provide a foundation upon which success can be built. I encourage you to really think about the implementation of this program and the various roles that each entity will play. I encourage you to embrace the framework of support that already exists and build upon that framework to ensure both the success of the program and the children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding of SB1093.

**From:** [Jennilee Mori](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support S.B. 1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:05:47 AM

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January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Jennilee Mori

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**Aloha,**

**Jennilee Mori, BSW** | Care Coordinator | **Imua Family Services** | telephone 808.244.7467 ext. 239 | fax 808.242.4762

[jmori@imuafamilyservices.org](mailto:jmori@imuafamilyservices.org) | [www.imuafamilyservices.org](http://www.imuafamilyservices.org) |



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Imua Family Services provides comprehensive early childhood developmental services to children and their families with the support and resources needed to achieve their full potential in life.

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Kauai United Way

## Testimony on SB 1093 Establishment of the School Readiness Program

Senate Education and Human Services Committees

Wednesday, January 30, 2013, State Capitol, Room 414, 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Chun Oakland, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Green 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 SB 1093 that ensures that 5,100 children who are a gap group that will not be eligible for kindergarten by 2014 (when children must turn 5 years old by July 31st to be eligible) will be able to attend a quality pre-school either run by the DOE or DHS licensed child care providers that meet minimum quality standards.

With the planned phase-out of Junior Kindergarten by 2014, it is important that we truly don't leave these children behind.

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.

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



I urge your support of this legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,  
Howard S. Garval, President & CEO  
Child & Family Service



**HAWAII BAPTIST EARLY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**  
**2042 VANCOUVER DRIVE HONOLULU, HI 96822**

January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

My name is Rebecca McGuire and I formally represent the Hawaii Baptist Early Education Association. We are an association of the 19 Baptist preschools across four islands and we serve approximately 1,000 children. As the faith-based representative to the DHS Child care advisory board, I also informally represent many of the faith-based preschools around the state.

**The Hawaii Baptist Early Education Association is in support of Senate Bill 1093 which establishes a School Readiness Program.**

We are in support of a bill that allows inclusiveness of the faith-based preschool community in working together with the Executive Office of Early Learning to establish services to the gap group resulting from the 2014 change in kindergarten entry age, beginning school year 2014-2015. Families who have been enrolled in the preschools have come to us expressing their concerns of an additional year of out-of-pocket expenses on their already burgeoning household budgets. Families who were considering preschool for their three year old child, have begun to delay anticipated enrollment due to an additional year of tuition expenses.

If we don't have a program in place for 2014, preschools that are already struggling under the current economic climate will be further taxed with declining enrollment and approximately 5,100 children will be left unserved due to the change in kindergarten entry age.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony of Senate Bill 1093.

Rebecca McGuire, President  
Hawaii Baptist Early Education Association  
Director, Olivet Baptist Preschool



January 29, 2013

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator, Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice-Chair

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: Testimony in **support** of SB 1093: Relating to School Readiness.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of SB 1093, Relating to School Readiness. 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). This measure also called for the termination of the existing Junior Kindergarten program starting in the 2014-2015 school year; a pre-Kindergarten program for late-born children administered by the Department of Education. The elimination of this program could affect over 5,200 four-year olds statewide. SB 1093 provides a framework for the high quality school readiness program that will begin to take the place of Junior Kindergarten, and will eventually expand to provide statewide assistance to all families w/ four year-olds who choose to send their children to a school readiness program.

SB 1093 seeks to establish a high quality school readiness in several ways that we see as critical, including:

- 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.

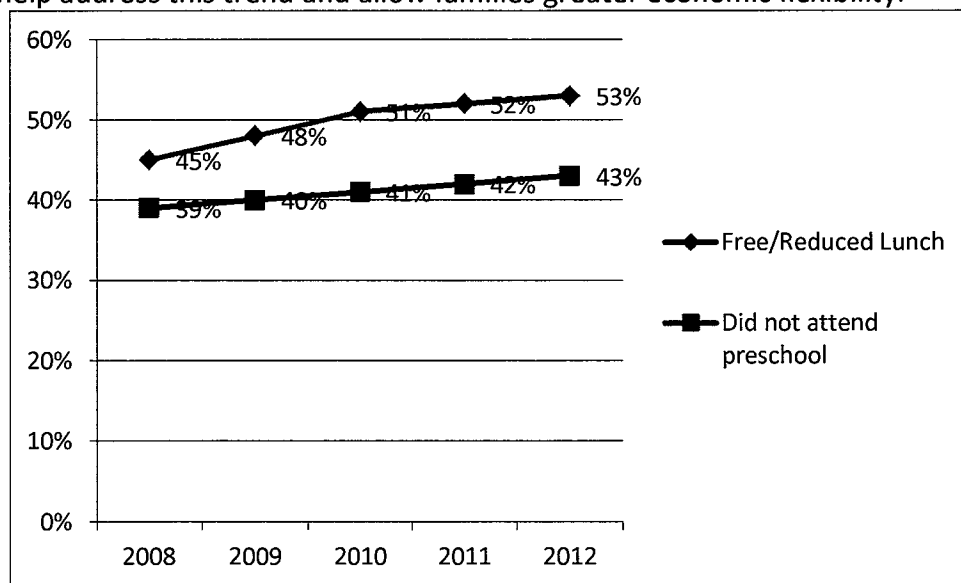
- Tasking the EOEL with developing and adopting standards for participating programs that will ensure qualified instruction and data collection.

This measure begins to lay the framework for the EOEL to move forward with their mission to prepare our youngest keiki to succeed when they enter Kindergarten. We know firsthand that the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth that comes with high quality school readiness programming serves to prepare children for school.

By providing the EOEL authority to execute the School Readiness 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 remains one of only eleven states that provides no significant state funding for early learning program. 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. By investing in our four year olds early we help save our DOE system, and teachers, time and money.

It should also 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.

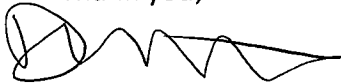


1. 43% of students did not attend preschool prior to entering the HDOE system in the 2012-2013 school year. This percentage has steadily declined annually by 1% from 2008 to 2012 (HSSRA 2012-2013).
2. 53% of students received Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) in the 2012-2013 school year. This is an increase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

We also see the critical mass of public and private support focused on this program like never before. Members of the business, philanthropic, labor, and education community have demonstrated a commitment to working together to build an early learning system that will place our keiki at the same level (or above) as their colleagues on the mainland.

GBA supports SB 1093 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality school readiness program that will serve all of Hawaii's four year old children.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Zysman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance



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 28, 2012

Senator Tokuda and Senator Oakland  
Chair of the Education and Human Services – State Capitol

RE: SB1093 – RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
Establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Oakland, Vice-Chair Kidani and Green, and Members of the Committee,

The CCCs **supports** SB1093 that establishes a statewide school readiness program.

The CCCs have maintained that *all* children benefit from early intervention and this is especially true in the case with children who have special needs. Research has repeatedly shown that early intervention rates of children who are able to mainstream into Kindergarten are much higher of those who receive early intervention 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.

The CCCs support preparing all children for success in school through the establishment of a statewide readiness program which consist of providers assisting families.

The 17 Community Children's Councils (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](mailto:histateptsa@hawaii.rr.com)

January 28, 2012

Senator Tokuda and Senator Oakland  
Chair of the Education and Human Services – State Capitol

RE: SB1093 – RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Oakland, Vice-Chair Kidani and Green, and Members of the Committee,

The PTSA **supports** SB1093 that establishes a statewide school readiness program.

The PTSA maintains that *all* children benefit from early intervention and this is especially true in the case with children who have special needs. Research has repeatedly shown that early intervention rates of children who are able to mainstream into Kindergarten are much higher of those who receive early intervention 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.

The PTSA supports preparing all children for success in school through the establishment of a statewide readiness program which consist of providers assisting families. In Connecticut, the Danbury School District tracked 391 children using the Preschool Assessment Framework (PAF). By the final PAF assessment more than 80% of all the children were at or above goal and ready for Kindergarten. (<http://www.danburypromiseforchildren.org/DSRDataAnalysisReport.pdf>)

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





PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

P13:006T:LKR

January 29, 2013

**Board of Directors**

*Howard Garval, Chair*  
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*Alan Shinn*  
*Laura Smith*

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani., Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Education

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Human Services

FROM: Laura Kay Rand, Interim Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Committees on Education and Human Services  
January 29, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Testimony in Support of SB1093, Relating to School Readiness

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1093, which establishes the School Readiness program. PHOCUSED is a coalition of health, housing, human services agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

School readiness is a key aspect of child development. Stakeholders agree that a child's future academic success is dependent on being ready to learn and participate in a successful kindergarten experience. This would include a child's attainment of a certain set of emotional, behavioral, linguistic, social and cognitive skills needed to learn, work and function successfully in school.

Further, supporting school readiness prior to a child entering the educational system helps level the socio-economic realities in our community. A school readiness program means that children in low-income families will have access to high-quality child development programming that would otherwise be out of reach. Without this access children from low-income families are less likely to have the supports necessary for healthy growth and development, resulting in lower abilities at school entry.

I urge your support of SB1093. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,  
Laura Kay Rand  
Interim Executive Director



## **Testimony to the Senate Committees on Education and Human Services**

**Wednesday, January 30, 2013**

**1:15 p.m.**

**Conference Room 414**

### **RE: Relating to School Readiness – Senate Bill 1093**

Chairs Tokuda and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Green, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. In principle, we support Senate Bill 1095 to establish a statewide school readiness program consisting of providers of school readiness services to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. The statewide school readiness program will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and is a major component of the early learning system established pursuant to section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Excepts the Executive Office on Early Learning and its programs from the purview of the Board of Education and Department of Education.

We fully support the creation within the early learning system a school readiness 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, and its focus on quality. We question whether building a system without learning from and scaling the excellent early childhood educators in place already would not be financially feasible. We also support the legislation's focus on quality. Research shows that the measurable financial returns are produced only from investment in quality early childhood programs.

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 support 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



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

January 30, 2013

TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Education  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 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 1093, RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS**

Chair Tokuda, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Green and members of the Committees,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 1093, relating to school readiness. Kamehameha Schools supports the intent of SB 1093 which establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system. We believe that this bill represents a step toward establishing a comprehensive array of services that will foster a brighter future for Hawai'i's children.

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

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



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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 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.



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

TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Honorable Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Education  
Members of the Committee on Human Services

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2013  
TIME: 1:15 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 414, Hawai'i State Capitol

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

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2013

SB 1093 – Relating to School Readiness

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports the intent of SB 1093. We understand that this is being introduced as a way to serve children before the constitutional amendment is proposed and hopefully passed, but the emphasis on high quality early childhood care and education is missing from this bill.

HAEYC is advocating for high quality programs/schools that are 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](mailto: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 Hawaii's children (0-8) and their families.*

Katherine E. Murphy  
Executive Director  
HAEYC



# Westside Service Provider Network

Providers from Kapolei to Kaena Pt

January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Westside Service Providers Network – Waianae, Hawaii

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

We support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. Statistics and onsite evaluations have shown the differences between our young children that have had Early Education vs the ones that have not had any Early Education. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.





**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](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

January 30, 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 Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1093 - RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Dear Chairs Tokuda and Chun Oakland and Committee members,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** SB1093 that establishes the School Readiness Program within the early learning system.

The School Readiness Program meets a critical need to provide quality early learning programs, especially in light of the thousands of young pre-schoolers who will be displaced when the Junior Kindergarten Program is discontinued after School Year 2013-14.

SEAC concurs with the focus on four year olds, and in particular, underserved and at-risk children who may lag behind their peers without quality early learning supports. Quality intervention at an early age can reduce the need for more intensive interventions, including special education and related services, in subsequent years.

SEAC also believes that increasing the availability of early learning programs that meet standards set by the Office of Early Learning will create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

January 27, 2013

Dear Chairs Tokuda, and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Green, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB1093, establishing a statewide school readiness program.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports the establishment of a statewide school readiness program and the financial appropriation to support the program. In particular, we support the priority of the late-born four year olds, who will not be able to attend public Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 year, that the program will focus on age-appropriate development for these keiki, and that it helping provide access to high-quality school readiness opportunities for low and moderate income families.

Last session, the Coalition testified that we preferred that Junior Kindergarten (JK) not be terminated without a guarantee in law that all "late-born" impacted students will have a state-funded early learning program as a replacement to meet their educational needs. Therefore, we look forward to a statewide school readiness program established in the law.

We also continue to recommend the development and implementation of an outreach program to preschools, families of late-born to explain the seamless transition to a statewide school readiness program and help parents prepare for the proposed ending of JK.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*DOE Windward District  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Education Matters  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Kamehameha Schools  
\*Kanu Hawai'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
\*Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Punahou School PUEO Program  
Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education  
YMCA of Honolulu  
Voting Members (\*)



January 30, 2013  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION and  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**RE: SB 1093– Relating to School Readiness**

Chairs Tokuda and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Green 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 SB1093** which establishes a statewide school readiness program, administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning consisting of providers of school readiness services to assist families in preparing their children for success in school. This program will serve four-year-old children with priority for those who are not eligible to attend public school kindergarten in the calendar year they turn five years of age.

Definitive research demonstrates that high quality preschool helps children with the skills and attitudes needed to be successful in school and life. Without proper foundation, a child's development can be 18-24 months behind, making kindergarten difficult. In three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012-2013, the majority of students did not start school with the skills necessary for success.

Moreover, due to the change in age requirements, approximately 5,100 children will be left unserved without a program in place by 2014. In the 2014 school year, a child must be five years old before August 1, 2014 to enter kindergarten. This School Readiness Program will give priority to these children born later in the year.

HAIS has always been a strong proponent of early learning programs for all young learners in the state and we urge you to pass SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, M.D. Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Liz Chun  
Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 1:15pm  
Conference Room 414

Subject: **SB 1093: Relating to School Readiness**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of SB 1093, Relating to School Readiness**, which provides for a state-funded voluntary school readiness program to be administered by the executive office on early learning. Hawaii must recognize and be deeply concerned about the lack of school readiness as our children enter kindergarten. Research demonstrates that quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) programs do make a difference; starting school with the crucial readiness skills positively affects future learning and life outcomes.

### **1 - Good Policy: Makes Economic Sense for Hawaii**

In order to nurture children who will become successful contributing citizens, Hawaii must embrace the long-term strategy of supporting school readiness. National economists such as Art Rolnik from the Federal Reserve Board as well as local experts such as Paul Brewbaker – repeatedly emphasize – **the best long-term investment Hawaii can make is quality early childhood development and learning.**

The 2009 Economic Benefit study commissioned by the Good Beginnings Alliance – states clearly that for every dollar invested there will be a \$4.20 yield in state, federal, and social benefits.

No more studies are needed. No more proof is required. **Now** is the time to ACT.

### **2 - ECEC Programs Will Increase Quality Experiences for Children**

When Hawaii invests in school readiness, the programs who receive funding will be required to deliver services which nurture the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical development of the child. The oversight of this investment should provide on-going support and reflective review to enhance the delivery of such high quality services.

The executive office of early learning must be given the resources to provide this training, oversight, and program accountability.

### **3 - Department of Education Will Benefit**

The executive office of early learning is the early childhood partner with the Department of Education (DOE) and University of Hawaii system for Hawaii's P-20 Initiative. P-20 fosters systemic linkages to enhance the learning continuum. Currently, Hawaii has a strong P-3 pilot. Building on this work, the positive linkages among parents, school readiness programs, and K-3 programs can be systemically enhanced through this broader school readiness program.

In addition, DOE will benefit as research has shown that when more low-income children attend a school readiness program prior to kindergarten entry, the regular school system experiences fewer costly special education placements, less tardiness, and lower absenteeism.

### **4 - Families are Engaged.**

**“Parents are trained” when they become engaged in their child’s school readiness program.** One of the very best ways to reach parents is when their young child is enrolled in a program. Engagement can range from volunteering in classroom - to after school/work teacher/parent dialogue - to written interchanges between the teacher and the parent. Keiki require drop-off and pick-up; they require adult involvement to facilitate their every day attendance. To a parent with few resources and many home challenges – **the child’s school readiness program may indeed be the only avenue through which they will learn how to assist their child’s learning.**

### **5 - Children Win!**

Right now Hawaii has a problem: In the 2014-2015 school year, over 5000 children who would have previously enrolled in kindergarten will be unable to do so. These children with birth dates from August 1-December 31 will be required to wait an entire year before than can begin their educational journey within the public school system. Low and moderate-income families will be most affected by this change as they lack resources for an alternative.

The Solution: A voluntary school readiness program which serves the children affected by the change in kindergarten eligibility. This program prepares a child for school entry by offering a defined program addressing the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development of the child.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Contact Information: [lizchun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lizchun@hawaii.rr.com).

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dlching@aol.com](mailto:dlching@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, January 28, 2013 10:42:10 PM

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SB1093

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Mahalo for your support for this bill. Hawaii's future depends on our ability to prepare our children for school success and life success. School readiness is an essential step to improving outcomes for all our students. Let's give our keiki the tools to succeed in school and in life!

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**SB1093**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Birdsall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

January 29, 2013

Dear Senators:

My testimony is in support of SB 1093. I am a married, mother of two young children (ages 4 and 2 years of age). With the cost of preschool being so high, the option of sending my children to preschool isn't feasible for my husband and I. We both are college educated and hold Master's degrees in our related fields, however with high student loan debt, loss of income due to furloughs, rising medical insurance costs, and monthly rent, we can't afford to send our two children to preschool. We don't qualify for Headstart or other free programs because of our income. We're the middle class. We basically don't qualify for any benefits or assistance.

My son is slated to start kindergarten in August 2013 and he hasn't had any formal preschool education or experience. As a mother, I experience ongoing guilt regarding whether I'm providing my child with the opportunities that his peers will experience prior to starting kindergarten. Am I placing him at a disadvantage which may lead him to struggle in his schooling? Is having money or lack thereof what separates those innocent children who can receive the formal preschool education and those who can't? My belief is that children should be afforded the same opportunities as one another, in the form of free and appropriate education starting in preschool.

Establishing a school readiness program within the early learning system is crucial. Educators, including kindergarten teachers, are feeling the pressures to teach to the standards. Play is a child's work and it's being decreased more and more in the school system, due to the heavy emphasis on academics. Early childhood educators are the ones who can develop an appropriate program that will reflect on skills a child needs to develop through play and exploration. Programs like Keiki Steps and Pulama I Na Keiki should be used as models in developing a statewide universal preschool so our children can have the right start at the right time, in the right way. Let's put our keiki as priorities this session and let their voices be heard!

Aloha,  
Michelle Birdsall  
Parent



January 29, 2013

Hearing on January 30, 2013 at 1:15 P.M.  
Senate Education and Human Services Committees  
Conference Room 414

In support of SB 1093

To Whom It May Concern:

I humbly ask for your support of SB 1093 because this bill will enable all children access to early learning opportunities the year prior to entering public school Kindergarten.

I am principal of Linapuni Elementary School, serving Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 students. Most of our children and families live in the Towers at Kuhio Park, formerly known as Kuhio Park Terrace or Kuhio Homes, public housing projects in Kalihi. Currently, 99% of all children qualify for the federal free or reduced meal program and 59% of Kindergarten and grade 1 students are identified as having limited English proficiency.

SB 1093 offers children in our school's geographic area an opportunity to attend a quality early learning program, taught by highly qualified teachers utilizing developmentally appropriate practices in their classroom instruction. The School Readiness program also promotes effective readiness activities to support the educational outcomes of our children on their path towards success in college, career, and citizenship, a priority in the current Board of Education/Department of Education Strategic Plan.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of SB 1093.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Sunahara  
Principal  
Linapuni Elementary School

**From:** [Krystina Yadao](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** 1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:24:40 AM

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January 29, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Krystina Yadao

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of

life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

--

Krystina R. Yadao  
Quality Care Specialist  
University of Hawai'i, Center on the Family  
Phone: 808-956-8666  
Email: [kyadao@hawaii.edu](mailto:kyadao@hawaii.edu)

**From:** [Cherie Yamashiroya](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:39:16 AM

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January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Cherie Yamashiroya (Pre-K Teacher at KCAA Preschools of Hawaii Na Lei)

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of

life, we needs to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the oppportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

TESTIMONY to the SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SB1093 Relating to School Readiness  
Wednesday, January 20, 2013  
1:20 PM -- State Capitol Conference Room 414

Submitted by: Mary Smart, Mililani, HI 96789

Aloha Chairwoman Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

I **OPPOSE** S.B. 1093. I will not be appearing in person to testify.

1. Although the "link between school readiness and success in school is indisputable," the US Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that the nation's decades-long experiment with "Head Start" preschool programs has provided no long-term benefit to children's school readiness. SB1093 proposes a program modeled on Head Start.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reports published in 2010 and 2012 indicate that there is absolutely no benefit from early childhood education and it may hinder them. Although some Hawai'i polls have indicated a high percentage of the residents approve of state run early childhood education, those numbers would dramatically change if people were advised of the failure of state run programs such as Head Start and that some programs are detrimental to a child's success in school.

Quotes from the 2010 report include:

"There were no impacts for 4-year-olds in the cognitive domain at the end of kindergarten."

"No significant impacts were found for math skills, pre-writing, children's promotion, or teacher report of children's school accomplishments or abilities in any year."

Quotes from the 2012 report include:

"In summary, there were initial positive impacts from having access to Head Start, but by the end of 3rd grade there were very few impacts found for either cohort in any of the four domains of cognitive, social-emotional, health and parenting practices. The few impacts that were found did not show a clear pattern of favorable or unfavorable impacts for children."

For the 3 year old cohort "At the end of 3rd grade, there was suggestive evidence of an unfavorable impact—the parents of the Head Start group children reported a

significantly lower child grade promotion rate than the parents of the non-Head Start group children."

The 2010 HHS report can be found at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive\\_summary\\_final.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive_summary_final.pdf)

The 2012 HHS report can be found at:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/head\\_start\\_report.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/head_start_report.pdf)

2. Head Start had similarly poor results as reported in a [2002 study](#) by University of North Florida Developmental Psychologist Rebecca Marcon titled "Moving up the Grades: Relationship between Preschool Model and Later School Success" Link: <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v4n1/marcon.html>

Marcon found that: "By the end of their sixth year in school, children whose preschool experiences had been academically directed earned significantly lower grades compared to children who had attended child-initiated preschool classes. ... Their progress may have been slowed by overly academic preschool experiences that introduced formalized learning experiences too early for most children's developmental status."

3. According to psychologist John Rosemond, in "The Diseasing of America's Children, "...in countries like France, Germany, and Japan, where traditional, nonacademic kindergarten curriculum has been retained, students consistently outpace American students in all academic areas. In Finland, where student achievement outstrips that of American children at all grade levels, reading instruction does not begin until age seven."

In his '2013 State of the State Speech' Governor Abercrombie asked for \$32.5 million for Executive Office on Early Learning in the biennium budget for a school readiness program. In accordance with findings of HHS and other studies, it would be not only wasteful but counterproductive to allocate any funds to early childhood education programs.

For the welfare of the children, and to be good stewards of the State's finances, I respectfully request you to OPPOSE this bill.

Re: SB 1093  
from: Ms. Vanessa Ott  
email: msvott@gmail.com

I agree that pre-school education is important. However, I am completely opposed to SB 1093 because it is just one more way to take education funds away from public schools and put it in the hands of independent contractors. SB 1093 is a convoluted piece of legislation. It needs to be simplified, and it needs to keep the money and control of its educational system in the hands of public education – provided the DOE administration is held accountable for managing the system. To accomplish the desired end (a functional pre-school system that parents can afford), I propose the following:

PROPOSED TEXT

**A BILL FOR AN ACT INSTEAD OF SB 1093**

RELATING TO PRE-SCHOOL & THE EDUCATION OF OUR KEIKI

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that children who have early-learning opportunities either at home or in pre-school have a greater chance of maximizing their school learning experiences.

SECTION 2. The legislature through Act 178, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2012, established firm birth date requirements for entry into Kindergarten. A child must be five years old by July **31** of the school year to enter Kindergarten. Note that registration into Kindergarten is voluntary.

SECTION 3. It is advantageous for our State's future to provide pre-school instruction that focuses on socialization techniques that will help ensure a child's future success in a Hawai'i Department of Education learning environment.

Therefore the legislature **finds it is in the best interests of our our State and our citizens to** establish voluntary pre-schools that operate within the purview of the Department of Education to be funded by parents, taxpayers, government subsidies for low-income families, and independent contributions.

The intent in a state, parent, and community-funded pre-school is to find balance in civic responsibility,



personal responsibility, freedom of choice, and necessary funding for public education services.

SECTION 4. The legislature thereby decrees that the Department of Education shall provide a feasibility study and action plan by December 31, 2013 that addresses the following:

1. families may enroll their children in the program on a voluntary basis;
2. a reasonable cost per student for inclusion shall be assessed for families of economic means;
3. families in need of economic assistance for inclusion will be provided with social services assistance to qualify for financial waivers;
4. funding for families in need of economic assistance shall be provided by the legislature.
5. a clearly defined pre-school curriculum which prepares children for their future learning environment shall include:
  - a. following instructions,
  - b. handling materials,
  - c. treating others with respect,
  - d. listening skills,
  - e. speaking skills,
  - f. conflict resolution,
  - g. how to hold a pencil properly.

SECTION 5. When the legislature receives the estimated costs for these services on 12/31/13, the legislature will establish a plan to determine how funding will be provided.

**From:** [Esther Byun](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support S.B.1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:51:07 AM

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January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Esther Byun

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**From:** [Momi Medeiros](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of SB 1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:11:50 AM

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January 29, 2013

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Momi Medeiros

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a Mother, Grandmother and a Direct Support worker for children and their families, I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

Sincerely,

*Momi Medeiros*

1502 Koene Place

Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone: 808-385-0439

Email: [anakemomi@yahoo.com](mailto:anakemomi@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Barbara Tanner](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:35:42 AM

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January 29, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Barbara A Tanner, MS, APRN

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

Barbara A Tanner, MS, APRN  
bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com

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January 29, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Head of School, Hanahau`oli School

Re: SB1093 Relating to School Readiness

Honorable Chairs and Committee Members:

This testimony is offered in support of SB1093 which establishes a statewide school readiness program enabling us to offer services to the gap group affected by the change in Kindergarten entry level in the 2014 - 15 school year. Services would be delivered through DOE schools and DHS licensed child care programs that meet minimal quality standards.

We know that in three-quarters of DOE kindergarten classes in 2012 – 13, the majority of students did not enter with the skills necessary to promote school success. About 43% of DOE kindergarteners had not attended preschool. Research indicates that without the foundation a quality preschool experience offers, children can be behind in development as much as 18 – 24 months resulting in a challenging start to school.

We need to have a program in place for 2014; otherwise, 5100 children in our State will go unserved. Existing programs, in cooperation with the School Readiness Program, can help to serve children who fall into this gap. Services will be provided through a public-private partnership using a contractual system to increase the capacity for meeting the gap needs.

The School Readiness Program is an investment in our future which cannot be ignored. I strongly urge the committees to support this bill which lays a foundation for a long-term early learning program.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB1093.

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From:  
Sandra Ann Kauionalani Pratt

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success.

SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility. I appreciate this bill because it is the first step in addressing the need to ensure our children are ready for school.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

I am a mother of a late born child. Our journey in finding affordable and high quality early childhood programs has been difficult because the current system in our state is divided; meaning these early learning programs that are high quality are at capacity or too expensive. This journey should not have to be so difficult for any parent. It is disheartening for me to know late born children statewide will not have access to critical resources that are intended to prepare them for life-long learning and success. It's imperative that the state make children a priority by supporting this bill.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**From:** [Melanie Padgett](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SupportS.B. 1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:18:31 AM

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January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Melanie Padgett

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

As Project Specialist at the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center, I hear daily from parents and EC educators who are very worried about how families are going to pay for another year of preschool for those late-born 2009 children. Please do everything possible to fund preschool for these children, as families just can't afford this cost on their own.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

Melanie Padgett



242-1608  
melanieandjamie@live.com

Melanie Padgett  
Project Specialist  
Good Beginnings-Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center  
Phone: 242-1608  
FAX: 270-5556  
Resource Center Address: 251 Napua St. Wailuku 96793  
Mailing Address: Maui Family Support Services Inc 1844 Wili Pa Loop Wailuku HI 96793

**From:** [Cherilyn Shiinoki](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT SB1093 & SB1095  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:35:15 AM

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January 29, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Cherilyn Shiinoki

RE: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Please support SB1093 and SB1095, which establishes a statewide school readiness program through the Executive Office of Early Learning and a statewide high-quality early childhood education program. SB1093 will set up the pathway for our keiki that are no longer eligible to be educated through the Department of Education as a result of Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to be ready for kindergarten when they are eligible. As SB1093 states, "many of the children who do not have experiences in pre-kindergarten programs could be eighteen to twenty-four months behind in development than their peers who do." This is especially true in a young child's social emotional development which is absolutely necessary for primary school teachers to effectively teach their students.

If Act 178 had been passed 1 year before it did, my son would not have been able to enter kindergarten because of his late November birthday. However, my husband and I decided to keep him in at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Children's Center, an accredited high-quality program, even though he was eligible to enter kindergarten in 2011 because we did not feel that he was emotionally ready for the structured kindergarten classroom environment. Now, in his kindergarten year, he still has difficulty managing his desire to share his ideas and often disrupts the class. I could not imagine

how difficult it would have been for him to feel he could be successful in school if he did not have the extra year of preschool opportunities to practice his social-emotional skills with other children in an understanding, nurturing environment. Fortunately, our family was in the financial position to provide him a preschool education and make a choice. Sadly, there are so many families where this is not the case. Act 178 now puts many low income families in the position of "no choice." Without SB1093 & SB1095, these families may not be able to afford quality pre-K experiences and may not be able to work as they will need to stay at home with their children. This only increases their economic demands and stress in the home.

Research shows that the more a family is in partnership with their children's teachers and schools, the more likely their children are to succeed. Families are more involved when their children are young. Preschool is the optimal opportunity for families to become comfortable being involved in their children's educational experience so that when problems arise later in their academic career; families are empowered to partner with their schools. Unfortunately, it is the same families who need these partnerships the most that are not able to afford a pre-K experience.

SB1093 and SB1095 work together to ensure a bright start for the children of Hawaii. Recent brain research stress the importance of providing meaningful, repetitive, and varied experiences for the optimal development of executive function skills, such as inhibitory control and mental flexibility, which allows a person to be successful in life and a contributor to society. These experiences and opportunities for practice need to occur before the age of 5 with professionals who can facilitate this development. I believe in SB1093 and SB1095 and hope that you will support them for all of our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of these important bills.

**From:** [Sierra Hethcote](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:48:35 AM

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January 29, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Sierra Hethcote

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**Sierra Hethcote**  
**Account Executive**

**Honolulu Star- Advertiser**  
**500 Ala Moana Blvd**  
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**From:** [Annie Okazaki](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:08:25 AM

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January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Annie J Okazaki

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families prepare their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat crucial problems associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

There is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1st to December 31st) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage. These children, through no fault of their own, will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program. Many challenges await Hawaii's families if we do not act.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093. You can make a difference in so many of our children's lives. Please act to make a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

Very truly yours,  
Annie J Okazaki

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From:  
Nohealani LenWai

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success.

SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program. My daughter is a late born and is currently enrolled at our district elementary school in a "junior k" program. (which is basically a "blended" kindergarten class). She's the youngest in the class and is having an EXTREMELY hard time understanding the curriculum, interacting with other students and just basically adjusting to being in kindergarten. If we could have afforded one more year of preschool, I truly believe that it would have been more beneficial for her. We have already discussed the option of repeating kindergarten with her teacher. I don't want other children to go through what my daughter is going through because they weren't prepared enough. Preschool is costly, even with help from family and various scholarships; it can still cost a lot of money. But it's important for our children.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Jim Eberle

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

This is our chance to invest in the future of our State. All the data proves access to early learning improves graduation rates, increases economic status as adults, and *decreases* grade repetition, special education referrals, *welfare dependency and criminal activity*.

I can't imagine any other investment that can produce such a high return as a statewide school readiness program. It's our future at stake. Imagine our state with a tremendous drop in the need for social programs, and the savings we accumulate that could be used to better improve our standard of living for all our citizens.

I work directly with families seeking to enroll their child(ren) in preschool programs. The number of parents that struggle with comprehension of program requirements is staggering. Our program is one of the simplest programs to apply for. The same is true to continue compliance to stay in the program. The volume of our drop off rate is disturbing. Let's change the course for our children and ensure they have better opportunities in their future.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dmching@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:dmching@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:45:53 AM

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SB1093

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah M. Ching	Individual	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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January 30, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Jeffrey Piontek

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support the intent of SB1093 but have concerns about the budget implications of the program. The establishment of a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1093 would provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs. Although it may impose a burden on the already stressed economy of the state.

There are volumes of research documenting that high quality early care and learning has enormous benefits for children, particularly at-risk children. When one considers that 75% of the brain growth and 85% of intellect, personality, and social development happens by the time a child reaches his/her fifth year of life, one sees the necessity to do more for our young children. These benefits manifest themselves throughout a person's life, starting with his/her academic achievement:

At-risk children are:

- 25% more likely to drop out of school
- 40% more likely to become a teen parent
- 50% more likely to be placed in special education
- 60% more likely to never attend college
- 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime

Waiting until children reach kindergarten to provide them the quality learning experiences necessary to be successful will inevitably lead to missed opportunities with generations of children struggling to catch up. Children growing up in poverty depend on these quality-learning experiences as child-care and education settings are often the only way of equalizing the playing field.

Research shows that high quality full day prekindergarten prepares children for kindergarten much better than half-day options. A recent study comparing the effects of half day and full day prekindergarten on students' readiness and achievement states unequivocally that full day pre-k yields better results.

In addition, the National Institute on Early Education found that full day programs are substantially more effective in closing the achievement gap in urban settings.

The Center for Evaluation and Education Policy also found that full day programs have a greater effect on achievement, grade retention, special education referrals, and social end behavioral issues. Parents were also more satisfied with full day programs than with half day. For parents, decreased childcare expenses, more convenient arrangements, and a great opportunity to foster the academic, social, and emotional growth of the children are cited as major advantages.

In our state, the foundation to raise the quality of our programs has already been laid and need to be built upon with the state's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). The ultimate purpose of a QRIS is to improve the learning and development outcomes of children by improving the quality of early learning

Shonkoff & Phillips, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*, National Academy Press (2000).

Ounce of Prevention Fund, <http://www.ounceofprevention.org/about/why-early-childhood-investments-work.php>

Robin, K.B.; Frede, E.C., and Barnett, W.S. (2006). Is More Better? The Effects of Full-Day vs. Half-Day Preschool on Early School Achievement. Accessed at [www.nieer.org](http://www.nieer.org) on September 5th 2012.

Plucker, J.A.; Eaton, J.J.; Rapp, K.E.; Woong, L; Nowak, J; Hansen, J.A. and Bartleson, A. (2004). The Effects of Full Day Versus Half-Day Kindergarten: Review and Analysis of National and Indiana Data. Prepared for the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents by The Center for Evaluation and Education Policy. Accessed on 9/5/2012

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 SB1095.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey Piontek

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**From:** [michaela.primacio](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:51:43 AM

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January 29, 2013

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Michaela Primacio

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

We strongly endorse an early childhood program empowering children to be active and participating citizens, contributing to the building of a sustainable Hawaii. A commitment to this kind of program compels schools to be ready to teach all children, regardless of abilities, experiences, or readiness skills. We want children to become competent and capable learners and thinkers, healthy in mind, body, and spirit, confident in who they are and how they contribute to a democratic and equitable society – not just children ready for the next grade.

Readiness narrows children’s opportunities to learn joyfully in the context of their families, communities and schools. Readiness does not work – it cannot be measured, there are no scores or tests or behaviors that can determine who is ready and who is not (Graue, 1993, 1998, 2000; Shepard, 1990). Readiness diminishes children’s lives to numbers defined through readiness assessments.

In naming readiness directly with school success, a narrow view of readiness exists only in the context of school. This indicates a socially constructed perspective of readiness, determined by people in power within the communities of Hawaii (not necessarily representative of all the communities) (Graue, 1992). Further, the state definition reflects more of adult’s visions of readiness rather than children’s contributions of defining readiness (Graue, 1993). This is evident in how children are described within the definition – children’s developmental characteristics – children are only given voice through adult conceptions of development.

Readiness as defined through a certain list of skills often places a checklist central to determining a student’s readiness. Research states any type of readiness assessment is not a strong measure of students’ future success, rather the actual school experiences impact the level of a student’s success (Dockett & Perry, 2009). This understanding of readiness indicates a lack of the suggested positive interaction as the state readiness definition states. With this perspective, there is an assumption students need to be ready for school. In what ways are schools, teachers, and principals ready for students?

“Being ready” is common vocabulary (Dockett & Perry, 2009) used to describe students being prepared for the next grade level or to learn a new skill. This creates an imagined state of being for students. The limitation of this perspective is when students do not fit into this imagined state; the students are left out of this normalized perception of being ready. While some view students as capable, most students are only viewed in terms of readiness.

Submitted by:

Jeanne Marie Iorio, EdD

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

Susan Matoba Adler, PhD

(PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

January 29, 2013

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Gfarstrup@msn.com](mailto:Gfarstrup@msn.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 12:05:17 PM

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SB1093

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg & Pat Farstrup	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [Maria Monsell](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SB1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 12:34:04 PM

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Maria Uyeunten

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

**I support SB1093**, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success.

SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a



whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jennyama@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jennyama@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 1:06:59 PM

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SB1093

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kenui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill to have all 4 year olds to attend preschool. This would benefit my family directly. I have a total of 6 children. My oldest is 12yrs old and was able to attend pre 3yr and pre 4yr old school. However very expensive. My 4yr old daughter attends Kamehameha Preschool Haleiwa and is able to go because she was lucky to be picked by lottery and has a full financial aid. My 3yr son was not lucky in the lottery for Kamehameha preschool. He unfortunately stays home with me. I am able to take him to Tutu & Me classes on Mon. & Wed. with my 2yr daughter. However I feel he is not getting the full benefits as regular preschool offers. I can see the differences in development between my 2 oldest children that attended 2yrs of preschool vs him. I'm crossing my fingers for this upcoming year that my current 2yr and 3yr olds will be picked through lottery at Kamehameha preschool. I don't have any other back up schools because it is so expensive. We would not be able to afford it. I will be stuck with this dilemma in the coming years because I have 11month old twin daughters to consider. It would be so beneficial for our family that this bill be passed so that the Hawaii State can provide preschool for all 4 year olds. This is so essential for our children.

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From:  
Venus L. Jardine

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I write to all of you in support of SB1093, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success.

SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will start their education in deficit. They will lack the educational preparedness and their initial steps into our state's public education jeopardized. Four of these children are my mo 'opuna (grandchildren).

It is their right as future citizens of our state to receive the early education to become successful. Waiting a whole year will be detrimental to their educational well-being, which in turn will effect the "state's well-being" in the future.

Please remember that Hawaii's keiki are Hawaii's future! We need to establish a statewide school readiness program NOW as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

**SB1093**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gale McNish	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

As a longtime member of the early childhood community on Maui, I strongly support the establishment of the School Readiness Program. This program is a necessary first step toward the creation of a more extensive program in the future. By providing school readiness activities for those late-born four year old children who will no longer be served by the DOE, the state of Hawaii recognizes and supports important early childhood activities for these children.

**From:** [Christy Ryan](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Please Support S.B. 1093  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:26:19 PM  
**Importance:** High

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

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Christy Ryan

Re: SB1093 RELATING TO SCHOOL READINESS

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1093, which establishes a statewide school readiness program geared towards assisting families in preparing their children for future school success. SB1093 is important because it seeks to combat the problem associated with delayed kindergarten eligibility.

It is obvious that there is a clear link between school readiness and success in school. If we do not implement a statewide school readiness program by 2014, late-born children, like my daughter (those born August 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>) will tragically start off their educational careers at a disadvantage since they will be forced to wait a whole year to attend a kindergarten program.

If we want to ensure the success of our children in education and all other facets of life, we need to establish a statewide school readiness program as detailed in SB1093.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1093.

Christy Ryan  
christy.ryan@ricoh-usa.com  
554-8829

January 29, 2013

Dear Chair Tokuda and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Green,  
and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB1093, establishing a statewide school readiness program.

I am a former public high school teacher, and now work as an educational consultant with schools in restructuring. The focus of my work is in being a partner with schools engaged in improving the education we offer our public school students.

I am in support of a statewide school readiness program. I support the development of a program for late-born four year olds. National research has shown that several of the most successful charter schools have put some type of early childhood education in place in effort to catch the students before they get behind. However, I want to stress three points that I think will add value to a readiness program. First, that the program allows parents the right to choose the school their child attends as long as it satisfies the State's criteria/certification. Second, that the State not have power over the actions and curriculum of existing programs that choose not to participate. Third, that the funding for the readiness program be tied to evaluation. Funding should be provided as long as the evaluation determines the readiness program is indeed successful in its endeavor to prepare students for kindergarten and continued success through elementary school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

My support for the bill represents the viewpoint of a former teacher,  
parent of public elementary school children and educational consultant.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Kepner-Sybounmy

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:24:25 PM

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SB1093

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU/HMS on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antoinette Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill because it maximizes school success for our children who need it the most. Early childhood education prepares kids well for kindergarten. Success in school sets the stage for success in other areas of life.

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