



Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 2:00 pm

by
Chaminade University of Honolulu Education Dean
Dr. Joe Peters

**SB 1093
Relating to School Readiness**

Chairpersons Tokuda and Chun Oakland and members of the Committee on Education and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB 1093 establishing a School Readiness Program in the early learning system.

The Education Division at Chaminade University of Honolulu is in full support of SB 1093 establishing a School Readiness Program in the early learning system. As a member of the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee, we also support the following joint position statement.

TEACHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TECC)

POSITION STATEMENT ON

COMMITTING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

It is time for the State of Hawai'i to commit funding for early childhood education. Hawai'i is one of only 11 states without state-funded preschool. Yet the research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. A recent study in Hawai'i found that every \$1 invested in early education returns \$4.20 in future social program savings. We have spent years studying the issues. We know what the right thing to do is. Now is the time to do it.

The newly established Executive Office of Early Learning in the Governor's Office is recommending a course for early learning that is revolutionary. The proposed Early Learning Program has a developmentally appropriate focus on the whole child, bringing education, social services, and health together to increase child success.

Unlike older children or adults, young children need comprehensive, multi-dimensional services that exist on a continuum—from birth to at least 8 years of age—so that they can accomplish the tasks of development and learning important in the early years and are fully prepared for further learning in elementary, middle and high schools, postsecondary education and beyond.

The TECC supports the overarching principles of the proposed program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children, regardless of socio-economic status, race or geographic location. Families must be engaged in the learning of their keiki and participate in the financing of the program; the plan must embrace public and private providers.

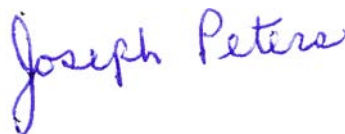
Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing and licensing of early childhood professionals in a state-supported preschool system. We firmly believe that standards for professionals should remain high and that every child deserves a high-quality early learning setting. TECC members have programs in place and the capacity to address emerging State needs as the Legislature and institutions commit to universal early childhood education. Moreover, we support the Program's plan to provide joint professional development and assistance to early childhood providers and educators in this public-private partnership.

We all need to pull together and support early education for all of Hawai'i's keiki. We ask that this year's legislature support early childhood education by funding preschool for all four-year-olds beginning in 2014.

About the TECC

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is a statewide advisory committee created in HRS 304A-1202. Its membership consists of representatives of every institution of higher education that prepares teachers for the State's schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. In its monthly meeting, the TECC identifies, studies, acts, and makes recommendations on matters of education of common interest to the Hawai'i State Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.





Testimony Presented to the
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services

Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 1:15 pm

by
Chaminade University of Honolulu President
Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, Ph.D.

SB 1093
Relating to School Readiness

Chairpersons Tokuda and Chun Oakland and members of the Committee on Education and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB 1093 establishing a School Readiness Program in the early learning system.

Chaminade University of Honolulu supports the intent of the legislation to establish within the early learning system a school readiness program to be administered by the executive office on early learning. Hawaii is one of only 11 states without a state-funded preschool program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children regardless of their economic status or geographic location. The most vulnerable of Hawaii's children should not be penalized because of lack of opportunity to a quality preschool program.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: romaj@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1093 on Jan 30, 2013 13:15PM*
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 3:30:08 PM

SB1093

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roma Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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