

SB1095

Relating to Early Childhood
Education
EDU, 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

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

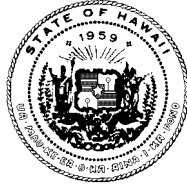
Purpose of Bill: Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1095. 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 Early Childhood 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

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1095 - RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 2013; 1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 1095 is to implement, upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

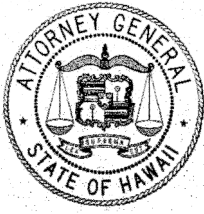
DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this Administration bill. Many of the families of late-born children affected by the change in kindergarten entry age in the 2014-2015 school year will be forced to find child care arrangements for an additional year. Without the implementation of a statewide early childhood education program, these displaced children may not attend a high-quality early education program in this extra year prior to kindergarten entry. Many working families are not able to afford the cost of tuition at a high-quality early education

program as they struggle to make ends meet in Hawaii, one of the highest cost of living states in the nation.

The proposed statewide early childhood education program would provide services on a sliding fee scale to all eligible children, regardless of the family's income, and provide families and children access to high-quality early childhood education programs whose curricula will be aligned with the Department of Education's Common Core Standards. The statewide early childhood education program would include curricula that addresses children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development and provide families and children access to high-quality education programs with professional staff and optimal staff to child ratios; in addition, participating program would be provided with opportunities for support and resources to continuously improve their program standards and on-going 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. There are also plans being considered for the future to increase the number of preschool seats available through the expansion of 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**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1095, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 **TIME:** 1:20 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 414

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

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

This bill seeks to establish a statewide early childhood education program for all children in the State. This investment will not only help children to realize their full potential, but will also benefit the societies in which they live. This bill is, however, contingent upon the passage and ratification of S.B. No. 1084, which is a concurrently introduced bill to amend the Hawaii Constitution.

It is anticipated that the public schools, at least initially, will not be able to accommodate all students wanting to participate in the program and so the State will have to contract with private providers to service the overflow of interested students. Article X, section 1, of the Hawaii Constitution currently prohibits the appropriation of public funds for the support or benefit of private educational institutions. Thus, a separate bill to amend the Hawaii Constitution has been introduced to permit the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education programs to enable the State to contract with interested private providers.

The Department of the Attorney General supports the Governor's initiative for the establishment of a statewide early childhood education program for all children in the State of Hawaii.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Education

S.B.1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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 implement a statewide early childhood
5 education program that will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning upon ratification
6 of the amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution whereby private schools will
7 be eligible to receive public funds for early childhood education. The intent of this program is to assist
8 families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children can graduate from high
9 school prepared for college and career. This legislation affirms the positive effects of high-quality early
10 childhood education on the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional outcomes of young
11 children. It also recognizes that if children are provided opportunities for early childhood education,
12 they are more likely to succeed and grow into healthy, capable and contributing adults. The Early
13 Learning Program is designed for three- and four-year old children, especially the underserved and at-
14 risk children. The Department of Health shares in this belief as it recognizes the importance serving all
15 children but especially those who are vulnerable based on the social determinants of health which are the

1 conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the
2 distribution of money, power, and resources at global, national and local levels. The social determinants
3 of health are mostly responsible for inequities and disparities which this Early Learning Program is
4 trying to address by providing an early childhood education program to families in support of their
5 children. The Department also considers the lifecourse approach where research documents the
6 important role early life events play in shaping an individual's health and education trajectory.

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

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Education
January 30, 2013 at 1:20 p.m.

By Linda K. Johnsrud

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

SB 1095: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The University of Hawai'i supports SB 1095 that establishes a statewide early childhood education program within the early learning system administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning. The program would prepare children for school; provide access to high-quality early childhood education; and align with K-12 standards to facilitate seamless educational experiences for children.

Given that numerous studies have shown the link between quality early childhood education, children's readiness to enter school, and subsequent school and adult outcomes, it is vitally important that early education address the multiple aspects of children's developmental needs and include standards and practices that are shown by research to be tied to better outcomes.

The University of Hawai'i recognizes that our own effectiveness as the state's public higher education system relies on the strength of the earliest foundations we establish for our youngest children. We therefore have been an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, and have consistently supported the establishment of an early learning system in Hawai'i and the kind of early education described in SB 1095.

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 1095 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 21st 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 3rd 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 1095 to pave the way for the establishment of a statewide early childhood education program that will ultimately provide a variety of high quality choices for families and which also 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.

All programs, regardless of setting, should be held to the same program quality standards, in particular as they relate to teacher training and education levels, as well as class group size and ratio. Each of these program elements significantly impact affordability and if we are to serve those children who would have otherwise not had an early education experience before entering kindergarten, we must be sure that we create a program which those families can afford.

Eligibility criteria, including income levels and subsidy rates which will be used as the basis for determining each child's level of funding will also be a key determinant as to the economic viability of participation for all providers.

As an example, KCAA, much like a majority of center-based programs statewide who choose to serve children receiving DHS subsidies, suffered significant declines in enrollment when the State dramatically reduced funding levels for families in 2009. The majority of us have yet to recover as funding levels have remained low and that is a primary reason for the decline in the number of children entering kindergarten with any preschool experience in recent years.

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.

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Testimony on SB 1095 Establishment of the Early Childhood Education Program

Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, January 30, 2013, State Capitol, Room 414, 1:20 p.m.

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani 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 1095 that establishes a pre-school system of both public (DOE) and private early childhood education programs that meet higher levels of quality and emphasize educational outcomes for children. This focus on quality and outcomes is essential to establish a solid foundation for success for our keiki in school and beyond.

The best investment we can make in our community is on the front end; i.e. from birth to five so that children enter school safe, healthy and ready to learn. The Governor's appointment of an Early Childhood Coordinator was an important step in this direction and establishing an Executive Office on Early Learning was also an important next step that will ensure that services for young children are coordinated across state departments.

The science of brain development and the economic ROI of \$4.20 return for every \$1 invested in early childhood are well documented. Hawaii is one of only 11 states without a state funded pre-school. It is time that Hawaii becomes a leader in taking care of our keiki and ensuring that they get off to the right start being safe, healthy and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. This bill along with other measures proposed in this legislative session will help Hawaii get there.

I urge your support of this legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



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



PACT PARENTS AND
CHILDREN TOGETHER
A FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

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

Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways And Means

FROM: Haaheo Mansfield
Senior Vice President of Programs
Parents And Children Together

RE: Senate Bill 1095, Relating to Early Childhood Education, in strong support

DATE: January 28, 2013

My name is Haaheo Mansfield. I am employed by Parents And Children Together and serve on the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council, the State Council on Mental Health and the loan review committee of Pathways to Work. Most recently, I had the honor of co-facilitating one of the six groups tasked with developing strategic action steps for the Governor's early learning initiative. I strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 1095, relating to Early Childhood Education.

Access to a free public education democratized access to economic wealth and improved quality of life for all peoples, spanning social chasms like no other initiative in our national history. Senate Bill 1095 will help to ensure that children below the age of five years will be ready for school and sustain development and learning gains through third grade. SB 1095 is visionary, and when enacted, will yield immeasurable benefits for all peoples of Hawaii, creating vibrant communities dedicated to life-long learning as a valued way of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1095. If you would like to speak directly with me about my position on this issue, please call me at 847-3285.



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 1095: Relating to School Readiness.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of SB 1095, Relating to Early Childhood Education. However, we draw the Committees' attention to the dependence of this measure on the passage of a constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be used for private early childhood education. We therefore encourage the Committees to also examine additional ways in which existing state programs and Departments could be employed to carry out the EOEL's mission to provide high quality school readiness programming to Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.

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 1095 provides a framework for the high quality early childhood education program that will 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 1095 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 enables the EOEL to move forward with its 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.

We hope the EOEL 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.

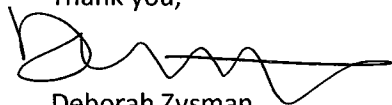
Hawaii remains one of only eleven states that provide no significant state funding for early learning program. This coupled with nearly 43% of our students not having received preschool upon entering Kindergarten means that our Department of Education (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing 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.

Similar to SB 1093, we are encouraged by this measure's focus on high quality standards and data collection. These are critical components for ensuring the state can measure the success of the early learning program. However, we encourage the Legislature and the EOEL to take a strong look at the standards required for providers whom the EOEL would potentially contract with to ensure such criteria will not adversely exclude existing high quality programs. In addition, we encourage the EOEL to provide methods of incentivizing, or providing, appropriate workforce development opportunities for professionals currently in, or considering moving into, the field of early childhood education.

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 1095 as a first step toward bringing about the ultimate goal of a high quality pre-kindergarten 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, flowing script.

Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
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TEL: (808) 586-5363 • TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 • FAX: (808) 586-5366

January 28, 2012

Senator Tokuda
Chair of the Education Committee – State Capitol

RE: SB1095 – RELATING TO HEALTH
Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

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

The CCCs **strongly 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 with early intervention the rates of children who are able to mainstream into Kindergarten are much higher than those who did not receive services. The Academy of Pediatric recommends diagnostic tools that can be used to diagnose children early to receive early intervention.

The CCCs continue to support early childhood programs which implement research-based interventions that are developmentally base with qualified staff.

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)



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January 28, 2012

Senator Tokuda and Senator Kidani
Chair of the Education – State Capitol

RE: SB1095 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

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

The PTSA **supports** SB1095 that establishes a early childhood education program within the early learning system.

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>)

Furthermore, this system needs to implement research-based practices and be provided by qualified practitioner so children can transition seamlessly into the Department of Education despite coming from various settings.

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

P13:007T:LKR

January 29, 2013

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

FROM: Laura Kay Rand, Interim Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Committee on Education
January 30, 2013 at 1:20 p.m.

Testimony in Support of SB1095, Relating to Early Childhood Education

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB1095, which establishes the Early Childhood Education program. PHOCUSED is a coalition of health, housing, human services agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Education can provide a leveling of socio-economic impacts experienced by children from low-income families. These families are dealing with the challenges of Hawaii's high cost of living realities and are focused on providing the necessities, like food and housing. As a result children from low-income families are less likely to have the "extra" resources necessary to access high quality early childhood education programs. As studies have clearly shown, investing in a high-quality early childhood education will result in higher levels of educational attainment and stronger social and economic well-being. A strong start with early education provides a bridge to a different future for these children.

An Early Childhood Education program means that children in low-income families will have access to high-quality educational programming that would otherwise be out of reach. Without this access children from low-income families are less likely to have the strong start to their education that will result in providing a bridge to a successful college experience/career that will change their family's financial/social tree for generations to come.

I urge your support of SB1095. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,
Laura Kay Rand
Interim Executive Director



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

1:20 p.m.

Conference Room 414

RE: Relating to Early Childhood Education – Senate Bill 1095

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. In principle, we support Senate Bill 1095 to implement, upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school, prepared for college and a career.

We fully support the creation within the early learning system an early childhood education program. The members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable employ thousands of graduates of Hawaii's public school system, and helping children, beginning at an early age is the key to making them successful citizens in our businesses and in our community. Our ability to compete in a global economy starts with employees who have been provided the tools to do so and it all begins at a very early age.

We also believe strongly that focusing on early childhood is critical because development of the architecture of the brain takes place by age five. We need to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. By the time children enter kindergarten, elementary school and high school we are addressing problems and no longer preventing them.

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

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

We strongly support the public private delivery system contemplated by the legislation, 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 supports the Be My Voice Campaign which will help to provide a stronger future for our keikis.

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

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

January 30, 2013

TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2013

TIME: 1:20 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 414
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 1095, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 1095, relating to early learning. Kamehameha Schools strongly supports the efforts of the legislature to enhance the early education opportunities across the state. Therefore, we support SB 1095 which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the early learning system.

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

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Legislature, the Department of Education and other public and private stakeholders in the community for the benefit of the children of Hawai'i.



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

TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2013
TIME: 1:20 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 1095 – Relating to Early Childhood Education

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports SB 1095. This bill emphasizes that high quality programs are what make a difference for children in poverty and/or high-risk situations. HAEYC is advocating for high quality programs/schools being ready for all children (which includes well-prepared, adequately compensated teachers), addressing the whole child (which includes physical and mental health as well as the child's family), and public-private partnerships to provide a variety of programs that will meet the variety of needs. Some families have the resources to provide stimulating, healthy experiences for their young children. Others need varying levels of assistance to do this.

We acknowledge the vision and courage it takes for legislators to enact laws that will come to full fruition after they leave office. Investing in early childhood development and education will be a lasting legacy. HAEYC would like to continue to be a positive contributor to ongoing policy conversations about Hawaii's children. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you with more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at (808) 942-4708 or haeyc@hawaiieyc.org.

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state. *HAEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0-8) and their families.*

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC



Westside Service Provider Network

Providers from Kapolei to Kaena Pt

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

From: Westside Service Providers Network

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - SUPPORT

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

We support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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.



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

January 27, 2013

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB1095, establishing a statewide early childhood education 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 early childhood education program and the financial appropriation to support the program. As we support the school readiness program, proposed in SB1093, which gives priority to the late born four-year-olds that will not be able to attend Junior Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 school year, we also support the early childhood education program, expanding the program to three- and four-year-old children, and targeting the underserved and at-risk children. We also applaud the effort to align content and performance standards of the early childhood education program with those of the K-12 system to allow for a consistent and high-quality educational experience for children.

We also continue to recommend the development and implementation of an outreach program to preschools and families to assure a seamless transition to the new system being proposed in this bill.

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
1:20 p.m.
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 1095 – Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and the members of the committee,

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

HAIS supports SB1095 which establishes an early childhood education program, administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning, to prepare children for school and provide access to high quality early childhood education. This program will serve children ages three to four years of age with a priority for four year old children.

Research shows that children who participate in early childhood education programs are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Studies demonstrate that such programs are especially effective for at-risk children. These programs have the potential to alter at-risk children's lifetime trajectories for success. High quality early childhood education programs have immediate and long term benefits not only for the children, but also for the societies in which they live. Thus, it is important to have a statewide early childhood education program and we strongly urge you to pass SB1095.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Education
.
From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013, 1:15pm
Conference Room 414
Subject: **SB 1095: Relating to Early Childhood Education**

I submit this testimony **in strong support of SB 1095, Relating to Early Childhood Education**, which provides for state-funded voluntary early education programs to be administered by the executive office on early learning. Hawaii is one of only 11 states that have not yet addressed the critical issue of children entering kindergarten not ready to succeed. Research clearly demonstrates that quality early childhood programs do make a positive difference and that starting school without the crucial readiness skills negatively affects future learning and life outcomes.

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

We know that 85% of a child's brain develops by age 5 years – and yet our state continues to not invest in the early years.

Over the past 7 years we have been tracking the status of Hawaii's young children entering kindergarten. As we fail to invest in early learning - please note:

- There are increasing numbers of children entering kindergarten without the necessary skills for success. Kindergarten teachers report this year - three-quarters of the children are not ready.
- There are increasing numbers of children without preschool experience prior to kindergarten entry: 43% in 2012-2013 entering class.

We know this long-term solution is crucial to Hawaii's successful future. We know this is the way to positively affect the educational outcomes and create educational equity for our most at-risk children.

This year many of the 39 states that already invest in early learning are proposing increases to their investments because they see these programs benefiting children and making economic sense. Legislators and Governors in Alabama, Oregon, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Missouri, New Mexico, and Indiana are all proposing increases to their early learning investments and addressing the challenge of creating a better educated citizenry. What is Hawaii waiting for? **Do we value our children less than they do?** Please act this year. Hawaii's children and Hawaii's future are at stake.

Contact Information: lizchun@hawaii.rr.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: dlching@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1095 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM
Date: Monday, January 28, 2013 10:40:05 PM

SB1095

Submitted on: 1/28/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM 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. This bill will help us make progress happen.

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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From: [Krystina Yadao](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: 1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:25:05 AM

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

From: Krystina Yadao

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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.

--

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

From: [Cherie Yamashiroya](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:37:59 AM

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

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

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

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It is important to secure a solid foundation for our children in ordered to ensure a more successful, healthy, and promising future for us all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1095.

From: [Tracy Ruggiero](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 7:43:01 AM

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

From: Tracy Ruggiero, M.Ed., BCBA

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

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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.

Tracy Ruggiero M.Ed., BCBA

From: [Glenna Okamura](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:50:49 AM

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

From: Glenna Okamura

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

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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.

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From: [Esther Byun](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support S.B. 1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:53:05 AM

January 29th, 2013

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

From: Esther Byun

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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.

From: [Momi Medeiros](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support of SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:14:37 AM

January 29, 2013

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

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a Mother, Grandmother and a Direct Support worker to children and their families, I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults. Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1095 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.

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,

Momi Medeiros

1502 Koene Place
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: 385-0439
Email: anakemomi@yahoo.com

From: [Jennilee Mori](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support S.B. 1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:06:22 AM

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

From: Jennilee Mori

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

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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.

Aloha,

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

jmori@imuafamilyservices.org | 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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From: [Melanie Padgett](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support S.B. 1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:21:34 AM

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

From: Melanie Padgett

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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.

As a Project Specialist for the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center, my main job has been to help parents of young children figure out how to pay for the child care and preschool they need in order to be able to work. I see so many families who have to go into debt or quit work because they can't afford child care. Their already tight budgets can't stretch enough, even with the current way too low benefit amount offered by DHS child care programs, to make child care affordable. They have to scrimp and save on food (feeding their children on cheap saimin and fast food instead of healthier options), move in with family, etc. in order to cover child care costs. Unfortunately, many still can't make it and have to quit their jobs and go on more expensive to the state and federal govt. aid programs like SNAP, TANF, etc. If we want citizens to be able to move toward self sufficiency and a decent future for their families, then state-funded child care and preschool is a necessity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1095.

Melanie Padgett

Project Specialist

Good Beginnings-Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center

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

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.

TESTIMONY to the SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SB1095 Relating to Early Childhood Education

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. 1095. I will not be appearing in person to testify.

1. There is conclusive evidence based on studies released by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that early childhood education is costly and improvements are non-existent after a few years. Nations that have **NOT** adopted early childhood education programs are performing at a much **higher level** than the United States after 50 years of Head Start programs. The programs and studies identified in the Bill do not outweigh other findings and real world experience. The people surveyed by Good Beginnings Alliance were most likely unaware of the negative findings of the HHS findings of no lasting value in academic pre-school programs.

2. S.B. 1095 cites the Annie Casey foundation, HighScope and Chicago Parent Child Centers programs. HHS assessments in 2010 and 2012 unequivocally show there is no value in early childhood education programs and in particular there is no value in Head Start programs which has been proposed as the model for Hawaii's program. Billions of taxpayer dollars have been wasted on early childhood education programs.

The reports can be read at:

2010: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/executive_summary_final.pdf

"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."

2012: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/head_start_report.pdf

" 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."

4. Developmental Psychologist Rebecca Marcon research published in [2002](#), Moving up the Grades: Relationship between Preschool Model and Later School Success reported: "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. Children's later school success appears to have been enhanced by more active, child-initiated early learning experiences. Their progress may have been slowed by overly academic preschool experiences that introduced formalized learning experiences too early for most children's developmental status."

5. According to psychologist John Rosemond, in "The Diseasing of America's Children, " A major part of the rationale behind the push-down curriculum is the growing gap between U.S. student achievement and student achievement in other industrialized countries. Ironically, however, 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. Those same countries , furthermore, are not dealing with epidemics of reading disabilities and ADHD."

6. The bill requires teachers to hold "a bachelor's degree with twelve credits in early childhood education or child development..." which unnecessarily excludes a large segment of Hawaii's workforce for no valid reason. Research has shown non-academic programs are more beneficial to pre-first grade students than academic programs. We should be creating jobs for people, not restricting them as this legislation does -- with no intrinsic value. Children need exercise for fitness and to burn off youthful energy and aggression, not sedentary academia that leads to boredom, misbehavior and drugs.

7. Paragraph 302L (f) refers to data collection. No data should be collected or retained on any child without his/her parent's permission and access to the date. In paragraph 302L (g), the statement: "The office may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section." gives an unelected body a blank check to impose any rule on the general public. The legislature must retain control (with the consent of the people) over all regulations and their implementation to protect the interests of the general public and they must make informed decisions based on more relevant data such as the HHS studies that expose the waste of early education programs such as Head Start.

8. For the welfare of the children, to keep well qualified child care providers employed, and to be good stewards of the State's finances, I respectfully request you to **OPPOSE** SB 1095.

Testimony – SB 1095

As early childhood educators, we are thrilled at the possibility of a funded statewide early childhood program. Yet, the current draft of SB 1095 presents a limiting view of what the proposed statewide early childhood program could be if based beyond readiness.

SB 1095 positions early childhood education as an intervention. Research presented within the bill positions young children as incapable and already at a deficit level when entering preschool. It is implied that families and communities are not worthy of empowering young children to think and in order to save these children, they must be in preschools focusing on “readying” children for school.

Skill-oriented 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.

According to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), indicating 15-years-olds’ proficiency in reading, maths, and science worldwide, Finland is again first in the rankings for 2012 (The United States is 17th) (*The Economist*, January 19-25, 2013). Interestingly enough, the focus of the schools in Finland is not excellence but equity. Educational policy in Finland is framed by the belief that every child should have the same opportunity to learn, regardless of socio-economic status, family background, or location. There are no private schools in Finland. Education is “an instrument to even out social inequality.”

(<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/12/what-americans-keep-ignoring-about-finlands-school-success/250564/>).

In creating an early childhood education program, we have the opportunity to focus on equity. If you had all the money possible to send your child to school, would you choose a program based on readiness, a term that cannot even be measured, or would you choose to send your child to one of the private schools in Hawaii like Mid-Pacific or Hanahau`oli where children are viewed as capable and teachers listen and respond to children in order to create learning experiences? According to Lena Nyberg (promoter of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child), it is important to listen to children, understand their perspectives, and encourage “their participation as adults’ equal partners” (Samuelsson and Kaga, 2008, p. 10).

Finland has great respect for young children. So much so that children are encouraged to play and do not experience formal literacy teaching until they 7-years-old – much in line with how young children’s brain develop and work. Children in Finland learn to read in a matter of months. In the United States, it takes children two and a half years to learn to read as they are initiated into formal

reading teaching at five-years-old (and maybe even four-years-old if readiness becomes central to the proposed four-year-old program).

The proposed 4-year-old program conveniently aligns with the statewide P-3 initiative (part of P-20W) evident in the elements of readiness, literacy, and quantitative data collection (part of the statewide longitudinal data system). As written, the proposed early childhood program frames a climate for more standards and testing (all inappropriate for young children) in order to build data. Hawaii has monies to establish the longitudinal data system and are now actively searching for funds to sustain the system. Suggested means of sustaining the data system are through federal grants, ensuring states' dependence on the federal government.

Building a sustainable Hawaii is critical to the future of our state. We can create an early learning system connected to the community and chose not to be shackled to federal monies. This means letting go of limiting ideas like readiness and data and moving towards valuing Hawaii and the communities throughout the state. Further, "young children have been burdened with requirements to absorb more and more knowledge and skills, driven by social pressure that urge each child to join the conveyor belt racing towards a 'good job' many years hence" (Herbert, 2008, p. 65). With the P-20W view on early childhood education, early childhood is being defined by workforce development. Early childhood should be when children live childhood rather than the limiting perspective of early childhood as just a time to prepare.

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 to create an early learning system that inspires 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.

Please see our written amendment for how SB 1095 can reflect our testimony.

Submitted by:

Jeanne Marie Iorio, EdD

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

Susan Matoba Adler, PhD

(PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend Senate Bill 1095 as follows:

on page 3, line 13, replacing "prepare children for school" with the following: "prepare children to actively participate in society"; and

on page 3, line 15, adding "focused on equity and" after "...education" and before "that..."; and

on page 5, line 4, replacing “Align with the state content and performance standards....” with the following, “recognize early childhood as a place where children live their childhood and informs learning”; and

on page 5, line 11, adding “including qualitative data such as documentation” after “....data” and before “to....”.

submitted by:

Jeanne Marie Iorio, EdD

Susan Matoba Adler, Phd

January 29, 2013

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

From:
Sandra Ann Kauionalani Pratt

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

SB1095 is important to me because I am a mother of a late born child. I am also a single parent who works full time and attends school part-time. Our journey in finding high quality and affordable early childhood programs has been difficult. It shouldn't have to be that way for any parent. Parents/Caregivers should be able to offer their children the early childhood program of their choice.

It's critical that the thousands of late born children in our state have access to high quality programs. A statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults. It's imperative that the state make children a priority by supporting this bill. Our future as a community depends on this success of these children.

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 and grandparents like me with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

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.

From: [Sierra Hethcote](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:49:03 AM

January 29, 2013

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

From: Sierra Hethcote

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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.

Sierra Hethcote
Account Executive

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From: [Annie Okazaki](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 10:57:16 AM

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

From: Annie J Okazaki

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I am writing in support of SB1095. The Senate Bill, pursuant to the amendment of Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program is crucial to ensure that Hawaii's children are prepared for school. An early childhood education program fosters exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies prove that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1095 would provide parents with more access to these essential programs. The bill also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

It is important to secure a solid foundation for our children to ensure a more successful, healthy, and promising future for us all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1095.

Very truly yours,
Annie J Okazaki

From: [Malia Hosino](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:23:14 AM

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

From: Malia K. Hosino

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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,

Malia K. Hosino

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

From: Jim Eberle

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

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.

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.

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

From: Jeffrey Piontek

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support the intent of SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. I am concerned with the budget implications of the program design.

SB1095 is important to our state and to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1095 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 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 and 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 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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: dmching@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1095 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:46:51 AM

SB1095

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah M. Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [michaela.primacio](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 11:54:04 AM

January 29, 2013

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

From: Michaela Primacio

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-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.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Gfarstrup@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1095 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM*
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 12:06:54 PM

SB1095

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM 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: SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 12:34:11 PM

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

From: Maria Uyeunten

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole.

SB1093 would provide soon-to-be parents like me with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens

associated with early childhood education costs.

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.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jennyama@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1095 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 1:17:53 PM

SB1095

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Please pass this bill to allow all 4yr old to attend preschool. It has a direct impact on my family. I have 6 children to consider. My first son is 12yrs old. He was able to attend preschool at 3yr and 4yr old. However very expensive for me. My 4yr old daughter attends Kamehameha Preschool Haleiwa. She was lucky to be chosen through lottery and has financial aid. My 3yr old son wasn't lucky to be chosen through the lottery for Kamehameha. Unfortunately we can't afford sending him to another preschool. I'm able to take him and my 2yr old daughter to Tutu & Me classes on Mon and Wed. which I'm very thankful there is such a program out there. However I don't feel my son is getting the full benefits as my other 2 children had when they attended fulltime preschool. I'm crossing my fingers that my current 2yr and 3yr olds will get into Kamehameha preschool lottery for the upcoming year. I have no other back up schools because it would be too expensive for me to consider. I will be stuck with dilemma for the upcoming years because I have 11month old twins to consider as well. Please pass this bill for all 4yr olds to attend preschool provided by the State of Hawaii. It is so essential for them and for the families of Hawaii.

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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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 1st to December 31st) 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.

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

From:
Venus L. Jardine

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

SB1095 is important to me because as a mother of 6 and a grandmother of 19, I believe early childhood education is the missing link to our public education system. It will connect families and children to a system that will FINALLY put value on our very young keiki.

Having a statewide public early childhood education program is long overdue. It is imperative to realize the importance to support a system that will enrich the learning of very young keiki in the various areas of development, as well as contribute to their health & well-being.

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 and grandparents (like me) with more access to these essential programs for their children and grandchildren and also make it possible to alleviate the financial burdens of paying for early childhood education costs.

It is important to secure a solid foundation for our children in order to a promising future for our Hawaii nei. Hawaii's keiki are Hawaii's future!

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1095.

SB1095

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

Support for SB1095

As a longtime early childhood educator on Maui, I am fully in support of this measure, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program. This program, to be delivered through both the DOE and private preschool settings, will ensure that our state's youngest children receive a high quality educational experience that prepares them for success in school and beyond.

From: [Christy Ryan](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Please Support SB1095
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:29:00 PM

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

From: Christy Ryan

Re: SB1095 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1093 would provide parents like me with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

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.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1095 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:46:25 PM

SB1095

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for EDU on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Promoting early childhood education is an investment in our children's success in school and life. Studies show that children who attend preschool are much less likely to be homeless or in prison. By making this small investment now, the State will save money in the future.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1095 on Jan 30, 2013 13:20PM
Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:46:25 PM

SB1095

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Antoinette Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Promoting early childhood education is an investment in our children's success in school and life. Studies show that children who attend preschool are much less likely to be homeless or in prison. By making this small investment now, the State will save money in the future.

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