



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support of**
S.B. 2236 S.D. 2, Relating to Early Learning
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

House Committee on Education
March 14, 2014
2:00 p.m., Room 309

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

Good afternoon. I am GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of Senate Bill 2236, Senate Draft 2.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools to use available classrooms for public preschool classrooms statewide.

EOEL requests that \$4,470,208 be appropriated for this purpose to be used in FY2015 for the 2014-2015 school year. This will provide an additional 640 four-year-old children with access to preschool.

An additional amount of \$854,920 would be needed to serve 100 four-year-old children in five charter school classrooms.

Partnering with the Department of Education is an important part of the early learning system that EOEL is charged with developing pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Our objective is to increase the number of four-year-olds who will have the opportunity for a prekindergarten experience.

To prepare as many four-year-olds for kindergarten as possible, it is important to use and expand the already-existing mixed-delivery system. EOEL's approach is to support such a

mixed-delivery system, which includes private, community-based preschools; Head Start programs; family child care homes; special education prekindergarten classrooms; family-child interaction learning programs; and DOE-EOEL prekindergarten programs.

All of these options are funded through a variety of funding streams, including federal, parent (which make up the highest percentage), private foundation (such as Kamehameha Schools), special education, and state funds.

This session, EOEL is seeking funds for the school year beginning August 2014 for:

- Family-child interaction learning programs (\$1 million for 400 children*);
- The DOE-EOEL Prekindergarten Program (\$4,470,208 for 640 children*); and
- The Charter School-EOEL Prekindergarten Program (\$854,920 for 100 children*).

*Free- and reduced-price meal eligible – a family of four could qualify if its income is at or below \$50,117.

The proposed DOE-EOEL program will have the following characteristics:

- Operates within the DOE structure
 - 32 classrooms at 30 schools statewide (list attached)
 - Schools identified using the following criteria: Title I status, rural location or limited preschool choices, existing preschool with Race to the Top or other federal funding support that is ending, and principal support
 - Staffed by HSTA/DOE teachers and HGEA assistants
- Serves 640 children (those eligible for free- and reduced-price meals)
- EOEL will offer professional development support

Each component of our budget request for the DOE-EOEL program is linked to building a quality prekindergarten program. Prekindergarten experiences must be of high quality to make a difference in outcomes for children. The greatest line item in our budget is for staff (80.4%). We will require highly qualified teachers who have early childhood experience. To meet the recommended teacher-child ratio and optimal classroom size for children's learning as identified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, two teachers are needed per classroom. They will be DOE employees who will also need to meet the DOE licensing and educational requirements. However, to ensure high quality is implemented, we have identified five key elements that must be incorporated within the program:

- **Ongoing professional development.** Research has shown that the most successful method for creating high-quality teachers is systematic, ongoing professional development. That is why we will contract for services (\$80,000) that will coordinate targeted professional development workshops for the participating school principals and teachers on topics such as child development, use of individual child formative

assessments, effective family engagement techniques, and curriculum. For teachers to participate in the required monthly workshops, substitute pay (\$102,400) and travel for neighbor island staff to participate in biannual seminars (\$7,200) has been included.

- **Mentoring.** What improves teaching and learning most substantially is the use of in-class mentoring or coaching. Resource teachers will be hired within each of the 10 DOE districts to mentor teachers and support principals in understanding the nuances of implementing a prekindergarten program on their campuses (\$900,000).
- **Focus on Child Outcomes.** To ensure children are learning and progressing in their growth and development, the curriculum implemented in the program must be aligned with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS). HELDS are research-based standards that identify the expectations of knowledge and behavior for children from birth through kindergarten entry. They are a set of expected knowledge and behaviors categorized into five “domains” or areas based on the National Education Goals Panel framework: Physical Well-being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Language and Literacy. To measure a child’s progress in these domains, the teachers will be required to conduct ongoing formative assessments on each child (\$6,400).
- **Program Assessment.** To evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions, EOEL would use one of several tools available to provide direct feedback to the teachers as well as to the resource teachers so they can support the classroom teachers. The indicators that would be collected biannually include: the climate of the environment and emotional support provided to the students; classroom organization including the use of materials and behavior management; and instructional support that is occurring, such as concept development and language modeling (\$6,400).
- **Environment.** To establish a high-quality program, an appropriate environment must be created. 26 of the 32 classrooms would need equipment (\$624,000). All of the 32 classrooms would need consumable materials for the children to use, such as writing materials and paper (\$48,800).

EOEL suggests the following amendments to the bill:

- That for purposes of consistency, the bill be clarified throughout to specify that the office may enter into “contracts.”
 - Page 1, lines 5 and 6
 - Page 2, line 12

Testimony of the Executive Office on Early Learning – S.B. 2236 S.D. 2

March 14, 2014

Page 2

EOEL respectfully asks that the committee move this bill forward. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



#	School	Principal	Island	Complex Area Superintendent
1	Kahaluu Elementary	Naomi Matsuzaki	Oahu	Lea Albert
2	Waiahole Elementary	Wendy Matsuzaki	Oahu	Lea Albert
3	Hauula Elementary	Samuel Izumi	Oahu	Lea Albert
4	Linapuni Elementary	Cindy Sunahara	Oahu	Calvin Nomiyama
5	Hana High & Elementary	Richard Paul	Maui	Lindsay Ball
6	Lanai High & Elementary	Elton Kinoshita	Lanai	Lindsay Ball
7	Kaunakakai Elementary	Janice Espiritu	Molokai	Lindsay Ball
8	Honokaa Elementary	Rory Souza	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
9	Honaunau Elementary	Noreen Kunitomo	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
10	Hookena Elementary	Joyce K. Crisafi	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
11	Konawaena Elementary	Claire Yoshida	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
12	Keolu Elementary	Gay Kong	Oahu	Suzanne Mulcahy
13	Kailua Elementary	Lanelle Hibbs	Oahu	Suzanne Mulcahy
14	Kaiulani Elementary	Rodney Moriwake	Oahu	Ruth Silberstein
15	Likelike Elementary	Kelly Bart	Oahu	Ruth Silberstein
16	Eleele Elementary	Fred Rose	Kauai	William Arakaki
17	Kekaha Elementary	Jason Yoshida	Kauai	William Arakaki
18	Kau High & Pahala Elementary	Sharon Beck	Hawaii	Mary Correa
19	Naalehu Elementary	Darlene Javar	Hawaii	Mary Correa
20	Keaau Elementary	Chad Farias	Hawaii	Mary Correa
21	Mountain View Elementary	Barbara Riley	Hawaii	Mary Correa
22	Keonepoko Elementary	Kathleen Romero	Hawaii	Mary Correa
23	Pahoa Elementary	Michelle Payne-Arakaki	Hawaii	Mary Correa
24	Waialua Elementary	Scott Moore	Oahu	John Brummel
25	Nanaikapono Elementary	Debra Knight	Oahu	Ann Mahi
26	Nanakuli Elementary	Lisa Ann Higa	Oahu	Ann Mahi
27	Leihoku Elementary	Randall Miura	Oahu	Ann Mahi
28	Maili Elementary	Disa Hauge	Oahu	Ann Mahi
29	Makaha Elementary	Lynn Okamura	Oahu	Ann Mahi
30	Waianae Elementary	Wendy Takahashi	Oahu	Ann Mahi



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

Date: 03/14/2014

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2236, SD2(sscr2670) RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of available classrooms as public preschool classrooms. Requires the executive office on early learning to contract with no more than five charter schools for the use of available classrooms for public preschool classrooms through June 30, 2019. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the substantive content of SB 2236 SD2. The Department recognizes the importance of establishing a quality early learning system to support all children in their journey towards a college- and career-ready future in Hawaii.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



TERRI FUJII
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: SB 2236 SD2 Relating to Early Learning
DATE: Friday, March 14, 2014
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support of SB 2236 SD2

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

The State Public Charter School Commission supports this measure, which would include public charter schools along with Department of Education (DOE) schools among those with which the Executive Office on Early Learning is authorized to enter into agreements to use vacant or underutilized classrooms for public preschool classrooms statewide.

The Commission applauds the recognition of charter schools embodied in this measure and notes that several charter schools themselves are experienced providers of pre-K programs, while other pre-K services are provided on or next to charter school campuses by the non-profit organization affiliated with that charter school or by another provider. These include programs serving the kind of rural and lower income communities that the State's early learning initiatives prioritize.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony.

March 14, 2014

House of Representatives
Committee on Education
March 14, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Re: SB 2236, SD 2 Relating to Early Learning

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

The Early Learning Advisory Board supports SB 2236, SD 2 which would authorize the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of available classrooms as public preschool classrooms. It also requires the executive office on early learning to contract with no more than five charter schools for the use of available classrooms for public preschool classrooms through June 30, 2019 and makes an appropriation.

Established under Act 178 (2012), the Early Learning Advisory Board replaced the Early Learning Council and is responsible for advising the Executive Office on Early Learning, providing recommendations to the Executive Office on Early Learning, promoting collaboration among state agencies, and being an independent voice for the overall well-being of Hawaii's children.

Hawai'i has been a national leader in ensuring access to quality health care, family support and community based models that improve the lives of young children. The Early Learning Advisory Board seeks to ensure that all children are valued, safe, healthy and ready to succeed. The board has adopted a comprehensive action strategy to achieve its goals. We strongly support advancing this bill and look forward to working collaboratively and proactively with the legislature and the broader community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Advisory Board

State of Hawaii Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB)
elab.k12.hi.us



Friday, March 14, 2014
2:00 PM
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2236 SD2 – Relating to Early Learning

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

My name is Robert Witt, 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 is in support of SB 2236 SD2 as this is one of the first and necessary steps needed to proceed with the establishment of a statewide early learning system to enhance school readiness. Hawaii is one of only ten states that does not have an established statewide early learning program, which means that we are missing a very crucial window of opportunity in the neural brain development of our young children.

The passage of this bill is particularly important because it will target the children of our most at-risk families; those who are most likely to enter kindergarten without the necessary foundational skills for learning and those who are unable to pay for a preschool education—640 children to be exact.

State subsidy programs such as Preschool Open Doors help families to supplement payments to existing private preschool providers, however for many families the co-payment is still unreasonably high and a preschool education is unattainable. Furthermore, the oversight of the creation of the preschool program by EOEL will add the element of “quality” to the equation. We know from research that preschool experiences are most effective when they are of high quality.

It makes sound fiscal sense to utilize vacant and underutilized public and charter school classrooms and to create additional jobs within the public school system.

Regardless of the outcome of the Constitutional Amendment vote at the next election, the state can, and should, proceed with the development of the public preschool infrastructure in order to accommodate the increased number of children who are ineligible to attend kindergarten during school year 2014-2015 due to the change in entry age requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014

RE: S.B. 2236, SD2 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports and recommends amendments to SB 2236, SD2** relating to the usage of vacant and underutilized classrooms for public preschool classrooms.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter schoolteachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA believes in public preschools being taught by public school teachers. The association recognizes the value of quality early childhood education program in preparing young children to enter schools ready to learn.

HSTA is seeking clarification in the proposed definition of a “qualified educational professional”. HSTA believes that high quality early childhood programs should be staffed by highly qualified teachers, as they possess a deep understanding of child development and specialized training in early childhood education. As such, we recommend that all teachers working in publicly funded preschools hold a bachelor’s degree in child development and/or early childhood education.

Further, we believe that federal legislation should be enacted to assist in organizing the implementation of fully funded early childhood education programs offered through the public schools. These programs must be available to all children on an equal basis and should include mandatory kindergarten with compulsory attendance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2236, SD2**.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

March 14, 2014

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

This testimony is submitted in support for SB2236 SD2, allowing the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education to use vacant or underutilized classrooms for public preschools statewide.

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 has consistently supported the establishment of a statewide early childhood learning program, supporting of the formation of the Executive Office of Early Learning, and the school readiness program, which targets the underserved and at-risk four-year-olds that will not be able to attend Junior Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 school year. Accordingly, the Coalition also supports the effort to expand pre-school at our public schools and the financial appropriation to do so, as an option to provide our children under the age of five, a high quality education experience. Access is key, especially in rural areas. We also continue to recommend an outreach program to families so that they understand the options available for their pre-Kindergarten children.

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 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

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

Keiki to Career

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

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 (*)



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House of Representatives
Committee on Education
Friday, March 14, 2014
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

SB 2236, SD2 – Relating to Early Learning

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports the intent of SB 2236, SD2.

The spaces considered for programs for 4 year olds should be safe and appropriate for the age group. State department of human services regulations provide the minimum health and safety regulations for the age group and should be considered.

HAEYC acknowledges 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawai'i's young children (B-8) and their families.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Friday, March 14, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2236 SD2 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2236 SD2 Relating to Early Learning.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber believes that this measure 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. It is critical that immediate action is taken to make sure these children are covered.

The Chamber supports the bill's intent to provide facilities for early childhood learning – a necessary tool to shape the future of Hawaii. Providing a proper environment for the children of Hawaii is the first step to investing in a bright future for the next generation.

Also, the Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it's imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. 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 is not only about return of investment but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House of Representatives
Twenty-Seventh Legislature 2014
State of Hawai'i

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

DATE: March 14, 2014
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 2236, SD2 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2236, SD2 relating to early learning. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of authorizing the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of available classrooms as public preschool classrooms. This bill also requires the executive office on early learning to contract with no more than five charter schools for the use of available classrooms for public preschool classrooms through June 30, 2019 and makes an appropriation.

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.



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

Board of Directors

Howard Garval, Chair
Nanci Kreidman, Vice Chair
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Alan Shinn
Laura Smith

TO: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Education

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Education
Friday, March 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 309

Testimony in Support of SB2236 SD2, Relating to Early Learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB2236 SD2, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit 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.

Once again, PHOCUSED supports SB2236 SD2 and the efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively to expand preschool options to more of Hawaii's children. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.



Testimony of Cindy McMillan
The Pacific Resource Partnership

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

SB 2826, SD1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education
SB 2236, SD2 - Relating to Early Learning
Friday, March 14, 2014
2:00 PM
Conference Room 309

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

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

PRP supports SB 2826, SD1, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS, and SB2236, SD2, which authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

Last year, the Legislature made the courageous decision to begin building the foundation of a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii; you passed and funded a school readiness system and you looked ahead and passed a measure to place a constitutional amendment on the 2014 ballot to ask Hawaii's residents if we are ready to invest in a statewide community preschool system – a system that allows our parents, local non-profit preschools, and public school system to become partners working together to provide opportunities for all of our state's children.

Now, we need your help once again with the passage of SB 2826, SD1. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed.

Please support SB 2826, SD1 and SB 2236, SD2 and thank-you for allowing us to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future.



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

**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2236, SD2, RELATING TO EARLY
LEARNING**

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

**Friday, March 14, 2014, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

Honorable Chair Takumi and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of SB 2236, SD2.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, Hawaii is among 11 states lacking a state-funded pre-kindergarten program. In 2014, the state's junior kindergarten program will be eliminated, leaving approximately 5,100 late-born four-year-olds without a public preschool option. Parents of these children will be forced to turn to the private education marketplace to find pre-kindergarten services for their children, at an average cost of \$8,640 per year (or \$720 per month). According to the Good Beginnings Alliance, in 2013, the average statewide monthly preschool cost amounts to \$13,680,000. GBA has also put together a sliding funding scale estimating how much money would be needed annually for state-supported 12-month preschool programs for varying percentages of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten population. Their estimates show that 1,2000 children (6.3 percent) can be covered at a cost of \$10,368,000; 5,000 (26.3 percent) at a cost of \$43,200,000; 7,500 (39.4 percent) at a cost of \$64,800,000; and 10,000 (52.6 percent) at a cost of \$86,400,000. Notably, in a 2011 report on income self-sufficiency in Hawaii, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism estimated that for parents to afford licensed care for one child, as well as before- and after-school care for a school-aged child, a Honolulu family of four must earn \$61,900 annually. A single working parent, by comparison, would need to earn \$56,400 per year. Sadly, DBEDT estimates that 27 percent and 77 percent of such families, respectively, fall

below the income thresholds necessary for “self-sufficiency.” The situation is, obviously, even more dire for Hawaii's low-wage working families. Therefore, we strongly endorse the governor's proposal to establish 30 preschool classes at public school facilities to serve 640 children from low-income families, ensuring that such children receive that educational preparation they need have successful academic careers. We also encourage lawmakers to appropriate the full \$4.5 million requested by the executive to actualize this effort.

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

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

Friday, March 14, 2014
2:00 PM
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2236 SD2 – Relating to Early Learning

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

My name is Cathy Ogawa and I am a former preschool teacher and preschool director and have been a part of the early learning committee for over 23 years.

I am in strong support of SB 2236 SD2 as I could not think of a more responsible way to spend our money. Hawaii is one of only ten states that does not have an established statewide early learning program, which means that we are missing a very crucial window of opportunity in the neural brain development of our young children.

The passage of this bill is particularly important because it will target the children of our most at-risk families; those who are most likely to enter kindergarten without the necessary foundational skills for learning and those who are unable to pay for a preschool education—640 children to be exact.

State subsidy programs such as Preschool Open Doors help families to supplement payments to existing private preschool providers, however for many families the co-payment is still unreasonably high and a preschool education is unattainable. I know so many families that suffer from the “middle class squeeze” where they make too much money to be eligible for subsidies and not enough money to pay for preschool out of pocket without having to make significant sacrifices. I was unable to attend preschool because although my parents were comfortably middle class, they could not afford preschool for me and my sister. We were fortunate to have quality family care available to us, but that is certainly not the case for the majority of the state’s population.

I cannot stress that the quality of the program is equally important, so the oversight of the creation of the preschool program by EOEL is essential. We know from research that preschool experiences are most effective when they are of high quality.

The state can, and should, proceed with the development of the public preschool infrastructure in order to accommodate the increased number of children who are ineligible to attend kindergarten during school year 2014-2015 due to the change in entry age requirements.

Thank you to the House Education Committee for continually demonstrating a dedication to improving the educational opportunities available to all of our children. And, thank you especially for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

ohno2-Rexie

From: Elliot Zysman <dzysman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 6:56 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2236,SD2, SB2826, SD1, and SB2975, SD1

Elliot Zysman from Honolulu, HI writes:

Dear Chair Takumi and Vice-Chair Ohno.

My name is ELLIOT. I am 4. All kids should learn how to write hard stuff, I go to preschool. My teacher is Miss Nicole. My favorite thing to do at school is to write.

I think kids should go to school for what number they are. If there are lots of classes they should go with kids as tall as they are.

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): dzysman@gmail.com

First Name: Elliot

Last Name: Zysman

City: Honolulu
State: HI
ZIP Code: 96817

Personal Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Education Committee
March 14, 2014
by, Robyn S. B. Chun

S.B. 2236, S.D. 2 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

I am testifying in support of S.B. 2236, S.D.2, which allows the EOEL to enter into agreements with the DOE and charter schools in order to use vacant or unused classrooms for public preschool classrooms.

My work as a teacher in preschools and DOE K-1 classrooms, as family child care provider and teacher educator, and my personal experience as a mother of twins, has impressed upon me the importance of providing each child with meaningful and culturally relevant early experiences that foster the child's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their well-being, learning and development from the start. This bill and several others are a step forward in enabling our state to create an early learning system that addresses the developmental and learning needs of all of our keiki during the critical first eight years of life. Together they enable us to develop a cohesive early learning system that pools together resources across silos in order to provides access and opportunity for as many children as is possible.

Investing in early learning is sound economic policy (Heckman, 2000; Schweinhart, Montie, Xiang, Barnett, Belfield & Nores, 2005). High quality programs are a primary intervention that has far reaching benefits that extend beyond individual children and families to our broader island community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2236, S.D. 2.

Sincerely yours,
Robyn S. B. Chun
Early Childhood Teacher Educator
College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

ohno2-Rexie

From: Ravandolyn Galvin <ravandolyngalvin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:39 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2236,SD2, SB2826, SD1, and SB2975, SD1

Ravandolyn Galvin from Honolulu, HI writes:

Dear Chair Takumi and Vice-Chair Ohno. I am writing in support of three early learning bills: SB2236, SD 2, which allows the Executive Office on Early Learning to use underutilized or vacant public or charter school classrooms for public preschool classes; SB2826, SD1, which establishes the Early Learning Program for the state; and SB2975, SD1, which provides funding for family-child interaction learning centers. Passage of these measures is important to increasing access to the early learning programs our keiki need and deserve. We need to invest in our youngest citizens for their future and the future of our state. Please support these early learning measures and thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. Mahalo!

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): ravandolyngalvin@gmail.com

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Last Name: Galvin

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State: HI

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