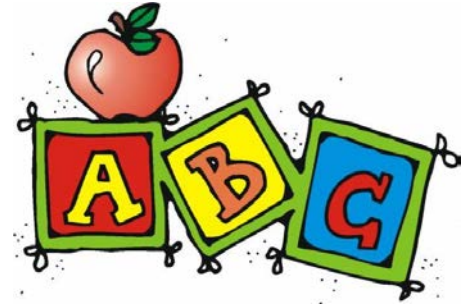


HB1676

HD1



Measure Title: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Report Title: Executive Office on Early Learning; Department of Education; Charter Schools; Public Preschools; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. (HB1676 HD1)

Companion: [SB2236](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): TAKUMI, OHNO



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
H.B. 1676 H.D. 1, Relating to Early Learning
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

Senate Committee on Education
March 12, 2014
3:00 p.m., Room 414

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 House Bill 1676, House Draft 1.

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 vacant or underutilized classrooms, or classrooms currently being used for preschool, 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.

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*); and
- The DOE-EOEL Prekindergarten Program (\$4,470,208 for 640 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 recommends an amendment to the bill on page 2, line 7 (appropriation section): “...enter into **contracts or memorandums of agreement**” (to be consistent with the language on page 1, lines 11-12).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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 Nomiya
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	Likeli 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: 03/12/2014

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

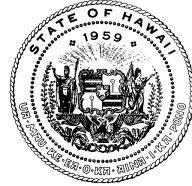
Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1676, HD1(hscr717-14) RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. (HB1676 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1676 HD1. 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.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Education

H.B. 1676, H.D. 1, Relating to Early Learning

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

March 12, 2014

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this measure but respectfully
2 defers to the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) who will be responsible for administering
3 these agreements provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our
4 Executive Supplemental Budget.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure requests an unspecified appropriation out of the general revenues of
6 the State of Hawaii to the Executive Office on Early Learning for use of classrooms as preschool
7 classrooms from the Department of Education and charter schools.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this Act is to authorize the Executive Office on Early
9 Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and public charter schools for the
10 use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

11 The Department supports family choice in providing an early childhood experience for young
12 children and this measure would allow families to choose preschools located in Department of
13 Education and Charter School classrooms.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
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: HB 1676 HD1 Relating to Early Learning
DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 414
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 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 other providers. Some of the campuses at which such services are provided serve precisely the kind of at-risk populations that the bill prioritizes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



1806 So. King Street | Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | (808)942-4708 | FAX (808)955-2739 | haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org

The Senate
Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 3:00 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 414

House Bill 1676, HD1– Relating to Early Learning

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) **supports** the intent HB1676, HD1.

This bill authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

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.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1676 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 1:00:49 PM

HB1676

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for EDU on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred Castle	Samuel N and Mary Castle Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments: The trustees of our Foundation fully support all the current education bills and especially the efforts to provide a greater number of low-income families the chance to support the school readiness of their children. There is no "fixing" the k-12 unless we help all families who want to access high quality early education. Our Foundation, one of America's oldest family foundations, is ready to work with public and private providers to create a high quality state system we can all be proud of. Further, we are in contact with the DOE to let them know that we will provide financial assistance for teacher training in child development and current pedagogical theory relating to young children. Hawaii is finally moving to catch up with much of the rest of the country. Let us get this done and go to work for our keiki! There is no time to waste!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Wednesday, March 12, 2014
3:00 PM
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 1676 HD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 strong support of HB 1676 HD1 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 already-existing 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 building a public preschool system 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; the passage of this bill and the requested appropriation are crucial for doing so.

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



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Education

The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of HB1676, HD1

Relating to Early Learning

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

March 12, 2014, 3:00 pm, Room 414

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports House Bill 1676, which sets aside vacant or unused classrooms as preschool classrooms.

The HPCCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

Chief amongst social determinants is education. Research has found that the earliest years of a child's development can have lasting impacts on their educational attainment. Children with the opportunity for high-quality early childhood education are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Such attainment can lead to higher rates of degree completion, higher incomes later in life, and better overall physical and mental well-being.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 1676. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Ho`okāko`o Corporation

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

**Testimony in support of:
HB 1676 – Relating to Early Learning and HB2276**

Chair, Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Michelle Kidani and members of the Education Committee:

Ho`okāko`o is in strong support of HB 1676 and HB 2276.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Ho`okāko`o's Public Conversion Charter Schools recognize the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our public charter schools service communities such as the island of Molokai and the Leeward Coast of O`ahu (Wai`anae), which do not yet have the capacity to serve all of our public school children, especially in our high-need areas of the state. We therefore support the intention to make available all public resources to provide high quality preschool services.

As the governing body of three public charter schools, serving many high-risk children and families, Ho`okāko`o is poised to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

It is critical that the State maintain its vision and obligation to provide our young children with early learning opportunities and a public and private delivery system is the only feasible option to make this happen.

We also support language that allows public charter schools to be included among those public schools benefiting from early childhood education services, particularly those with qualified educators and at-risk children. Our charter schools are poised and ready to continue to provide high quality, early education services to children in our at-risk communities, should this law come to pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these bills.

Sincerely,

Megan McCorriston
Executive Director



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature 2014
State of Hawai'i

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2014
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: HOUSE BILL 1676, HD1, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING Vacant Classrooms

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB1676, HD1, 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 vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. This bill also 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.

March 12, 2014

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education
March 12, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 414

Re: HB 1676, HD1, Relating to Early Learning

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

The Early Learning Advisory Board supports HB 1676, HD1 which would authorize the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

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



680 Iwilei Road, Suite 510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
(808) 548-4811 • Fax (808) 548-2980

Harry A. Saunders
President

Testimony by Harry Saunders
President, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
March 11, 2014

Before the Senate Committee on
Education

March 12, 2014
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 414

Support for:
HB 1676 HD1
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
HB 2276 HD1
RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

I am Harry Saunders, President of Castle & Cooke Hawai'i and a member of the Hawai'i Business Roundtable and Be My Voice. We support these early childhood measures as key commitments and investments for the well-being of our keiki and the future of Hawai'i.

HB 1676 HD1 – Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. We support this measure as it will allow use of underused facilities for early learning programs.

HB 2276 HD1 – Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, effective July 1, 2030, and upon the ratification of a constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education. We also support this measure as it establishes a comprehensive early education system for the most needy children that meets the standards and protocols set by the DOE and EOEL.

I respectfully request your consideration to support these bills for early childhood education, to establish a specific commitment for the foundation and building blocks of our children and our future.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact us:

Harry Saunders, President
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
aktsukamoto@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-4884

Troy Fukuhara, Senior Vice President and Counsel
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
tfukuhara@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-3714

Carleton Ching, Vice President –
Community and Government Relations
Castle & Cooke Hawai'i
cching@castlecooke.com
Phone: 548-3793

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

March 12, 2014

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

This testimony is submitted in support for HB1676 HD1, 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 Kaua'i

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 (*)



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 1676 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1676 HD1 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.



Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Relating To House Bill 1676, House Draft 1
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports HB1676 HD1 Relating to Early Learning**, which would authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

The first five years of a child's life is an incredibly important time for their brain development and this bill would increase opportunities for learning in an academic setting. The Party believes allowing EOEL to contract with the DOE and charter schools would benefit all parties involved. EOEL would be able to provide space for its preschool programs, while creating cost savings and greater efficiency for the DOE and charter schools by maximizing space currently available and unused.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



March 10, 2014

TO: Chair Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Deborah Zysman
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB1676 HD1: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports HB1676 HD1**, 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. GBA strongly supports efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively in this way to expand preschool options to more of Hawaii's children.

HB1676 HD1 provides EOEL with the statutory authority to act in executing its mission to ensure that Hawaii's four-year-olds have the quality early learning experiences they need to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

GBA is in support of HB1676 HD1 and thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Zysman", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

INPEACE- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture

TESTIMONY

**HB 1676 HD 1 and HB 2276 HD 1
RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Testimony Presented Before Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 12, in Conference Room 414, 3:00 pm
by Dr. Kanoe Nāone, Chief Executive Officer, INPEACE

INPEACE, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, **supports HB 1676, HD1 with reservations and HB 2276, HD1.**

We know that 85% of the brain is developed by the time children turn 5. As a former Department of Education elementary teacher and as a mother I have seen the benefits of early education and what happens when children don't have access to quality learning. The single largest impact on the well being of our K-12 system is access to early childhood education. By providing families, especially those in low-income areas, access to early learning we can dramatically and positively shift the well being of the children in those schools and areas. We believe an equitable early learning system is of critical importance to the success of our children and the economic future of our state. The elimination of Junior Kindergarten will affect more than 5,000 children in our communities, with the largest impact on those most at risk and who will not have access to preschool or early education before entering kindergarten.

We **support HB 2276, HD 1** and its companion bill **SB 2826, SD1**, upon ratification, because it will move our state one step closer to building a viable early learning system. To establish this, we are committed to working with multiple organizations and agencies to offer a range of early learning programs that meet different needs and values to effectively serve the community more broadly and support the success of our most at-risk children. We support a system that provides families with culturally responsive, high-quality early learning opportunities that enables healthy, successful development, and the ability of each child to reach their full potential.

We **support HB 1676, HD 1** to amend H.R.S. §302L to authorize agreements to use underutilized DOE and charter school facilities for preschool programs **with reservations**. We currently utilize classrooms in the DOE for 11 of our preschool sites already and have been doing so in some cases for the last 15 years, so we want to be sure that we are able to continue those partnerships if this bill passes. The lack of facilities and the high cost associated with them make it very difficult for preschool programs to thrive. This amendment has the ability to support preschools and systems alignment between the HIDOE and the early childhood system to ensure our children and their families have a smooth transition from their preschool programs into kindergarten.

INPEACE is a non-profit, educational organization that annually serves more than 4,500 children, parents and community members through its early childhood and workforce development programs on five different islands. The work of INPEACE over the past 20 years has been extensive and progressive in Hawai'i, particularly within communities that do not otherwise have access to the services it provides. On a daily basis, we see the critical role early learning plays in the economic wellbeing of communities, especially those in areas where poverty is prevalent. We also have statistically significant educational outcomes for the children in our Family Child Interaction Learning Programs making it a viable option for school readiness.



Testimony of Cindy McMillan
The Pacific Resource Partnership

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

HB 2276, HD1 - Relating to Early Learning
HB 1676, HD1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
3:00 PM
Conference Room 414

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani 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 HB 2276, HD1, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS, and HB 1676, HD1, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and public 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 HB 2276, HD1. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed.

Please support HB 2276, HD1 and HB 1676, HD1 and thank-you for allowing us to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future.



HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

March 11, 2014

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair
Members of the Committee on Education
State Capitol
Conference Room 414
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani & Members of the Committee on Education:

HB1676, HD1 - Relating to Early Learning

HB 1676 authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the DOE and charter schools for the use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. The Hawaii Community Foundation supports this bill as an important component of a statewide early childhood education system. As a statewide charitable foundation, HCF has supported numerous organizations and agencies over the years in their efforts to build and deliver a quality early childhood program. Over that time we have seen compelling evidence of the critical importance of high quality early learning experiences for all children. It is hard to point to another single program that would do more to prepare so many young children for a successful start in school than early education. Children without these experiences regularly arrive at the doors of our kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms unprepared to learn. Quite often these children will struggle and lag behind their peers for years to come. As proposed, this bill will help to ensure that there are adequate facilities and classrooms to meet the needs of all children across the state.

HCF encourages your Committee to support the creation of this program for the benefit of all children in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Christine van Bergeijk
Vice President and COO



STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter
P O Box 260
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6906

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of:

HB 2276 – Relating to Early Childhood Education and HB1676

Chair, Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair, Michelle Kidani and members of the Education Committee:

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School recognize the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. At Kualapu'u School, we are hoping to continue our pre-kindergarten program to service our high needs and at-risk community. We therefore support the intention to make available all public resources to provide high quality preschool services.

In partnership with Ho`okāko`o, Kualapu'u School is poised to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

It is critical that the State maintain its vision and obligation to provide our young children with early learning opportunities and a public and private delivery system is the only feasible option to make this happen.

We also support language that allows public charter schools to be included among those public schools benefiting from early childhood education services, particularly those with qualified educators and at-risk children. Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School is poised and ready to continue to provide high quality, early education services to children in our at-risk communities, should this law come to pass. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these bills.

Sincerely,

Lydia M. Trinidad
Principal
Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School
Kualapu'u, Moloka'i, Hawai'i



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014

RE: H.B. 1676, HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports and recommends amendments to H.B. 1676, H.D. 1** 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 H.B. 1676, HD1.**



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

**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 1676, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO
EARLY LEARNING**

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

**Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

Honorable Chair Tokuda 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 HB 1676, HD1, relating to early learning.

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

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 3:00 p.m
Conference Room 414
by

Donald B. Young
Personal Testimony

HB 1676 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Education

My name is Donald Young. I am the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

On behalf of the College of Education, I support HB 1676 HD1, 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.

The research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. Part of that commitment is securing accessible, safe, and appropriate learning spaces for young children to learn and interact. HB 1676 SD 1 provides a pathway for doing so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony to
The Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Conference Room 414
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: House Bill 1676, HD1, Relating to Early Learning

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1676, HD1 relating to early learning. My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a retired school head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. I am testifying in support of authorizing the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with the Department of Education and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms as part of a mixed-delivery system to ensure school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to kindergarten.

Research demonstrates the critical importance of early education in the life-long success for all children and recognizes that parents are a child's first teachers. As an educator and through my involvement with early learning since the creation of the early learning educational task force in 2006, I have increasingly appreciated programs that integrate parents in the educational process of their children. Not only is family engagement important in setting a child on the right course for school, but programs like the family child interaction learning programs support the education of parents about how they can best teach their own children.

Choice is something we celebrate in Hawaii. The inclusion of family child interaction learning programs as part of the early learning system for our State ensures that choice is offered and that the system is responsive to our citizenry.

I urge the legislature to consider this bill favorably as it approaches addressing the needs of Hawaii's *keiki*.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, EdD

March 10, 2014
Hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 3 p.m.
Committee on Education
Conference Room 414
In support of HB1676, HD1

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Phyllis Ida and I am a retired DOE Special Educator, and the former 619 Coordinator for the Windward District. I also over see the grant administration for the Windward District P-3 Demonstration Project that focuses on keiki reading on grade level by third grade, providing model program of seamless early learning experiences from early childhood programs through elementary school for young children in the Windward District.

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of HB1676 HD1 relating to early childhood education, as it authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and public charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

The Windward P- 3 Grant & its Demonstration Project appreciates and acknowledges the need for this particular measure in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children.

The Windward P-3 Demonstration project works collaboratively with DOE elementary schools, early learning programs of varying auspices, community based programs, health, safety, welfare providers, and families. We passionately work towards having developmentally appropriate early learning programs and services on our public and charter elementary campuses.

As an educator I am in support of HB1676 as it provides eligible families with another option when considering developmentally appropriate, high quality early learning opportunities for their keiki.

In January 2014 the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported that the average preschool tuition in Hawaii is about \$800 a month or \$9,600 a year.¹ According to the University of Hawaii Manoa 2013 -2014 catalog, fulltime undergraduate resident tuition for one semester is \$4,572 or \$9,144 for a school year (Spring & Fall Semesters only).² In short it costs approximately the same amount of money to send one child to preschool as it does to send one to UHM.

When you look at the numbers it is easy to see why the Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment (HSSRA) for the 2012 -2013 School Year estimates that approximately 43% of Hawaii's keiki entered kindergarten *without* preschool experience. (Note: The statistics for SY 2013 -2014 were not available at the time when this testimony was written.)

Studies have clearly shown that the single largest impact on the well being of our K-12 system is access to quality early learning experiences. Studies have also clearly shown that investing in high-quality education will result in stronger social & economic well being for both the individual & the community as a whole.

As we work towards creating a comprehensive early learning, health, safety & welfare system it is wise for our state to invest in using vacant or underutilized public & charter classrooms to create preschool environments as it will create additional options for Hawaii's families with young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

¹ [A Step Ahead At School](#), Christine Donnelly, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, January 12, 2014

² [Regular Tuition Schedule 2013 – 2014](#)

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HB1676 HD1
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
3:00 p.m. Conference Room 414 State Capitol

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee Members,

My name is Karina Bhattacharya, and I am currently a Sophomore at Baldwin High School. I strongly support the HB1676 bill. I humbly ask for your backing of HB1676 and its proposed initiative to improve early education in Hawaii.

In the 2014-2015 school year, children that are at least five years old on July 31 will be admitted to Kindergarten. Children born past that deadline may still require primary schooling. Those parents need quality education, but they may lack the resources to adequately provide for their child. Weisenfeld, the Executive Office of Early Learning Director, stated that with sufficient funds for the DOE-EOEL Prekindergarten program, a total of 1,040 children would be eligible to attend preschool. According to the Department of Education, there are 32 underutilized classrooms in 30 schools that are eligible to host preschool programs. With approval of HB1676, those classrooms could be put to use in our communities. The preschools would greatly benefit a large sum of the four year old children that do not meet the July 31 deadline.

To improve academic excellence in Hawaii, it is crucial that younger generations are given the skills to guide them towards higher learning. For such reasons, I support the HB1676 and its purpose to improve Hawaii's education system. Thank you for your concern for the well-being of Hawaii's youth.

Respectively Submitted,

Karina Bhattacharya

Baldwin High School Secondary Student Conference Representative

karinabhattacharya@gmail.com

March 10, 2014
Hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 3 p.m.
Committee on Education
Conference Room 414
In support of HB1676, HD1

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Celia Chang Takahashi and I am an Early Childhood Professional and mother of two.

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of HB1676 HD1 relating to early childhood education, as it makes appropriation to authorize 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.

As an early childhood professional and parent I understand & am in support of the measures outlined in this bill. They are needed in order for the EOEL to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children & shape the future of the Aloha State.

In her Legislative Testimony, GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL), stated there are more than 17,000 four-year-old keiki in Hawaii. She also informed us that when the kindergarten age change takes place with School Year 2014 – 2015 (children will need to be 5 on or before July 31st the year they enter kindergarten) approximately 5,100 children will be too young to enter kindergarten.

Last year the Legislature funded the Department of Human Services (DHS) with \$6 million for Preschool Open Doors (POD) a program that allows qualifying families to take their child care subsidy to a community-based preschool of their choice. While a step in the right direction, this funding will only cover approximately 1,200 of the 5,100 keiki affected by the kindergarten age change. *That is less than 25%*. Even with

subsidies from POD, some qualifying families may find their co-payment unreasonably high and may decide not to send their child to preschool.

The Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment (HSSRA) for the 2012 -2013 School Year estimates that approximately 43% of Hawaii's keiki entered kindergarten without preschool experience. I believe that a fair amount of those keiki entered kindergarten without preschool experience because their families could not afford the monthly tuition.

(Note: The statistics for SY 2013 -2014 were not available at the time when this testimony was written.)

If more than 40% of Hawaii's keiki were entering kindergarten without preschool experience during SY 2012 - 2013, the numbers in the near future could go up as families are impacted by the kindergarten age change & are still unable to find or afford preschool tuition or qualify for Head Start.

Supporting a variety of quality early learning experiences, including ones that uses vacant or underutilized classrooms on public school & charter school campuses is crucial as it provides eligible families with another option when considering developmentally appropriate, high quality early learning opportunities for their keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB1676 HD1.

Testimony in support of:
HB1676 HD1 – Relating to Early Learning
HB2276 HD1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education

Senate Committee on Education

Jill Tokuda, Chair
Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

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

I am in support of HB1676, HD1 and HB2276 HD1 as they will increase the state's capacity and responsibility to provide quality early learning services to Hawaii's young children, which is especially needed due to the fall out of 5100 children being ineligible for Kindergarten beginning in SY 2014-15.

I work in a federally funded early childhood education project in the Wai`anae area, where many of our most vulnerable children are living in impoverished conditions, including homelessness. Hawaii cannot afford to turn our backs on those children who will be turned away from Kindergarten beginning August 1, 2014.

Though Preschool Open Doors subsidies are being made available, there is not enough preschool capacity to meet the need for the coming year. A subsidy program is no substitute for a preschool program, which would ensure the necessary requirements of quality teachers, developmentally appropriate curriculum and instructional methods and professional development supports such as coaching and mentoring. Research has demonstrated time and again, that quality is a most critical and necessary component of effective early education programs, especially those that target high-risk populations. These measures help to ensure that children who need early learning opportunities the most are not left behind from the start.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of these bills.

Gale Flynn
Ho`okahua Project
Wai`anae

Personal Written Testimony in **Support of H.B. 1676, HD 1**
Relating to Early Learning
Senate Education Committee
March 11, 2014

By, Robyn S. B. Chun

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

I am testifying in support of **H.B. 1676, HD 1**, 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.

We will need to wisely use available resources towards this effort in both public and community based settings. In a majority of states, early learning systems are characterized by partnerships that expand access by building upon the resources and flexibility of community based (private) providers and use funds to facilitate cross-sector system building and professional development so that high-quality experiences are integrated across the PK-3 spectrum (Hustedt & Barnett, 2011). This bill will facilitate system building efforts by identifying and making use of the public resources that are presently underutilized. It is also an indicator that the state is positioning itself to qualify for grants that are part of the Strong Start legislation (H.B. 3461) that passed at the federal level this year.

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 H.B. 1676, HD 1**.

Robyn S. B. Chun
Director, Graduate ECE Programs
College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

From: [Jim Clark](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of HB1676, HD1 and HB2276, HD1
Date: Monday, March 10, 2014 2:50:20 PM

Jim Clark from Honolulu, HI writes:

With a 3 year old in preschool and a newborn a few years away, it is clear that preschools help children during their critical cognitive development years.

Teachers unions opposing these measures are terrible for Hawaii's children. Their main function seems to be keeping poor teachers in their jobs, adding costly bureaucracy, and letting teachers strike to the detriment of children's education.

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): jimc0143@gmail.com

First Name: Jim

Last Name: Clark

City: Honolulu
State: HI
ZIP Code: 96821

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: bbrody1@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1776 on Mar 14, 2014 13:15PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 3:27:04 PM

HB1776

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for EDU on Mar 14, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bev Brody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: HB1676, HD1, which allows the Executive Office on Early Learning to use underutilized or vacant public or charter school classrooms for public preschool classes; and HB2276, HD1, which the Early Childhood Education for the state. Passage of these two 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 HB1676, HD1 and HB2276, HD1 and thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. Mahalo!

1. Jin Chang from Pearl City, HI
2. Terri Yoshinaga from Honolulu, HI
3. Alfred Castle from Honolulu, HI
4. Tessie Kotrys from Kapolei, HI
5. Melanie Padgett from Pukalani, HI
6. Justin Pequeno from Honolulu, HI
7. Teri Skillman from Honolulu, HI
8. claire bailey from waianae, HI
9. Ravandolyn Galvin from Honolulu, HI
10. Kiana Shiroma from Kaneohe, HI
11. Angela Sallerson from wailuku, HI
12. sam hugh from honolulu, HI
13. Michael Fahey from Mililani, HI
14. Cathy Ogawa from Honolulu, HI
15. Pixie Flores from Kailua-Kona, HI
16. Gale McNish from Makawao, HI
17. Lani Robinson from Waialua, HI
18. Mariano Delgado from Pahoehoe, HI
19. Marsha Jones from Wailuku, HI
20. Christy Ryan from Wahiawa, HI
21. Lisa Uyehara from Honolulu, HI
22. Stacey White from Honolulu, HI
23. Melissa mae Pacheco from Hilo, HI
24. Diane Ching from Honolulu, HI
25. A Ilagan from Ewa Beach, HI
26. Sarah May Woodruff from Honolulu, HI
27. John Rankin from Honolulu, HI
28. Jayna Matsukawa from Honolulu, HI
29. Derek Ching from Honolulu, HI
30. Kay Lipps from Honolulu, HI
31. Jackie Dudock from Honolulu, HI
32. Deborah Stryker from Hanalei, HI
33. Michelle Schiffel from Kailua, HI
34. Hannah Herman from Honolulu, HI
35. Darren Imada from Honolulu, HI
36. Roma Johnson from Kailua-Kona, HI
37. Leona Blankley from Hanalei, HI
38. Karen Cross from Kailua, HI
39. Chelsie Wong from Honolulu, HI

40. D. Morton from Kapolei, HI
41. Cecily Paelike from Honolulu, HI
42. F Nishimoto from Honolulu, HI
43. Marya Mann from Kailua Kona, HI
44. Patti Valentine from Kapaa, HI
45. Uluwehi Laurita-Urata from Kapolei, HI
46. Desmond Urata from Kapolei, HI
47. Julie Pavao from Kilauea, HI
48. Teresa Vast from Kailua, HI
49. Maureen Langberg from Kealahou, HI
50. Barry Fong from Honolulu, HI
51. Kimberly Straube from Honolulu, HI
52. Jacob Straube from Honolulu, HI
53. June Toguchi-Tassill from Waimanalo, HI
- 54.