

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1676 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:22:46 PM

HB1676

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Meatyard	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha ladies and gentlemen of the Hawaii Legislature. It is with enthusiasm I write to you today in support of early learning opportunities within the state. This is an exciting time in Hawaii working within the field of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECE). I currently live on the island of Molokai and have lived here for 9 years, most of them I have worked for the only Early Intervention Program on island as well as other youth based programs. I cannot express enough the importance of having positive early learning opportunities for our young children. I have seen the difference. I have been a part of the impact these early experiences can have on an individual, a family, and the community. It is during these early years that lay foundation for academic and social success. If funds are not made available then we are limiting these possibilities. I would like to take this opportunity to illustrate the importance of this issue by describing the impact of ECE on my family. My son is 6 and succeeding amazingly in all academic and social areas. He is in the first grade, and I associate his success not only to our family values but also to the two and half years of preschool he had before entering Kindergarten at Kualapuu School. He has gained skills that will allow him to continue to thrive through his elementary education. My oldest daughter is currently enrolled in Na Kamalii Hoaloha Preschool (where I am on the board as well as the mentoring director). She is affected by the age change in starting school; her birthday is 13 August 2010, only two weeks away from the cutoff date but will be required to do a third year of preschool. We hope that she will continue her early education at kualapuu preschool, a charter school on island. My husband is a calculus teacher at Molokai High School. It is in his best interest that upcoming students are better prepared. Each year his calculus class enrollment increases and more students are taking the AP exam. This is a good thing. We want his classes to grow and be able to challenge students continuing on to college. Finally, my youngest daughter will be ready to attend preschool next year; I need her to continue in an early learning environment so that I can go to work. Again I am a Care Coordinator for the Early Intervention Program at the Molokai Community Health Center. If I do not go to work, young children and their families will miss out on necessary services that will help them grow and develop. I am only one example within this community. I work with several families who want early learning opportunities for their children. Investing money in ECE now, means saving money later. There are studies that show this: \$1.00 now will save DOE \$4.20 per child later.

This investment today will cultivate a society ready for tomorrow. We cannot lose sight of this. Taking action now will only ensure a better tomorrow. We will grow a generation ready to provide for their successors. Thank you, Amanda K. Meatyrd Care Coordinator, Ikaika Infant Toddler Development Program Mentoring Director of Na Kamalii Hoaloha Preschool Mom to Jameson Fletcher Smith, Ivy Archer Smith, Harper Stratchan Smith

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LATE TESTIMONY

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 establishes the Early Learning Program 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. Kamala Marahatta from Lihue, HI
2. Jerry Campany from Makakilo, HI
3. Deanna D'Olier from Honolulu, HI
4. Audrey Kido from Kailua, HI
5. Kendra Ozaki from Kailua, HI
6. Keala Bartolini from Kapaa, HI