



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING  
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD  
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of  
H.B. 2276 S.D. 1, Relating to Early Childhood Education  
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
March 25, 2014  
9:00 a.m., Room 211

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

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is in support of House Bill 2276, Senate Draft 1.

The purpose of this bill is to implement, upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program.

Section 1 sets forth why early childhood education is important, the history of early learning in Hawaii, and the legislative intent. It is an important component of the bill and we urge the committee to retain this section in any subsequent drafts.

This bill will enable EOEL to contract with private, community-based providers, such as KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, Kama'aina Kids, and Seagull Schools, to offer quality educational programs for children prior to their entry into kindergarten.

Private providers are essential to meeting the need of over 17,000 four-year-olds for a prekindergarten experience. While partnerships with DOE (for preschool classrooms on DOE campuses through a memorandum of agreement with EOEL – run by DOE with support from EOEL) and family-child interaction learning programs (where a parent attends with their children) will serve some of this population, most four-year-olds will have their prekindergarten experience in a private, community-based preschool.

Participating private, community-based providers will be required to:

- Have defined child outcomes;
- Incorporate positive teacher-child interactions;
- Use individual child formative assessments;
- Incorporate family engagement; and
- Have a curriculum aligned with the Hawaii Early Learning Development Standards.

In addition, the program provided for by this bill will allow EOEL to monitor quality indicators, assist Head Start programs with supplemental funds if federal funds are decreased, and distribute federal funds that are provided in the recently passed federal budget.

With the program as provided for in this bill and appropriate funding, the State will be able to help provide access to quality prekindergarten for 85% of four-year-olds by 2018 (see attached).

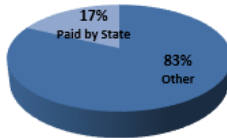
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. I am happy to provide you with any additional information you may need.



## STATE FUNDS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE INVESTMENT IN 4-YEAR-OLDS Majority comes from available federal, private, and special education funds

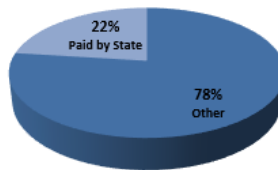
### SY 2014-15 / FY 2015

\$16 Million / 17%  
\$93.2 Million Total (All Sources)



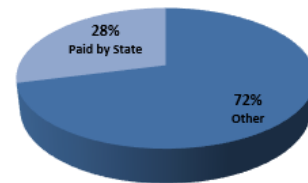
### SY 2015-16 / FY 2016

\$21.1 Million / 22%  
\$98.3 Million Total (All Sources)



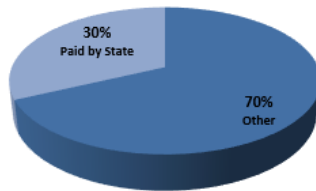
### SY 2016-17 / FY 2017

\$29.3 Million / 28%  
\$106.5 Million Total (All Sources)



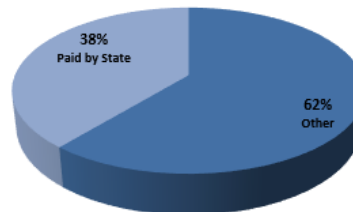
### SY 2017-18 / FY 2018

\$32.8 Million / 30%  
\$110 Million Total (All Sources)



### SY 2018-19 / FY 2019

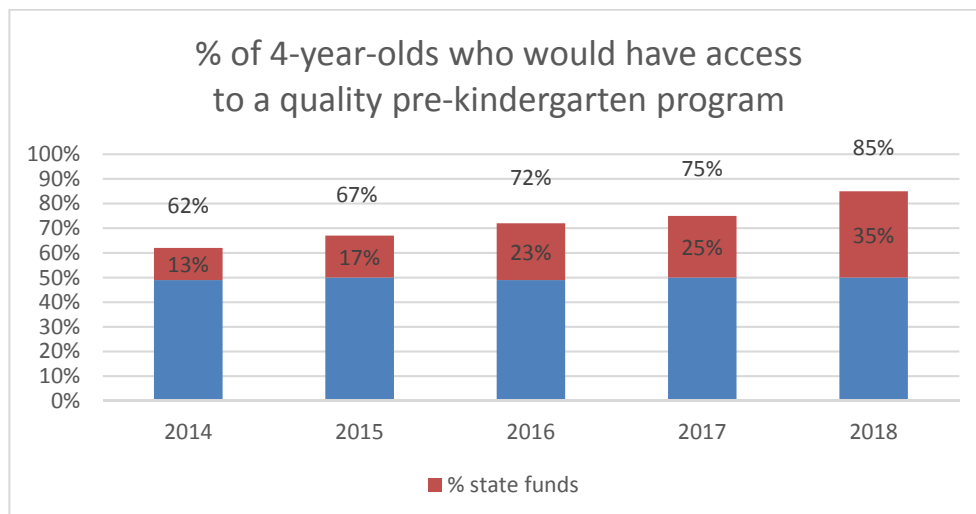
\$47.9 Million / 38%  
\$125 Million Total (All Sources)



#### Notes:

- "Other" funds consist of a combination of federal (e.g., Head Start), parent, private foundation, and special education funds.
- Reflects supplemental budget request for FY2015 and projected budget requests.

According to the 2012 U.S. Census, there are 17,189 4-year-olds in Hawaii. Based on this funding projection, which assumes passage of a Constitutional amendment to allow public funds to be given to private early childhood education programs, the following percentage of 4-year-olds would have access to a quality pre-kindergarten education program.





# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
March 25, 2014 at 9:00 am  
By Dr. Joanne Itano  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 2276 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

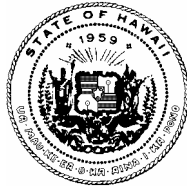
Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2276 HD1 SD1 which establishes, upon ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, an early childhood education program within the early learning system administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning.

Studies have shown the link between quality early childhood education and subsequent school and adult outcomes. As outlined in HB 2276 HD1 SD1, the early childhood education program will provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood education that addresses children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional development and monitor the implementation of quality standards.

The University of Hawai'i recognizes that our effectiveness as the state's public higher education system relies on the strength of the earliest foundations established for our youngest children. We therefore support the early childhood education program described in HB 2276 HD1 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 25, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2276, H.D.1, S.D.1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 25, 2014; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 2276, H.D.1, S.D.1, is to establish the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System, as established by Section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, upon ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) strongly supports this Administration bill.

The Early Childhood Education Program would consist of providers of high-quality early education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

The ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, will enable the State to establish the Early Childhood Education Program through which:

- 1) Capacity can be built to serve four-year-old children;
- 2) The infrastructure made available by the private sector would reduce the amount of public dollars that would be required to be spent on public facilities to accommodate four-year-old children; and
- 3) Quality standards that are linked to children's educational outcomes, which research emphasizes is necessary to produce significant outcomes for children in both in the near- and long-term, will be required for all participating providers to ensure children are receiving high-quality education.

Studies have shown that high-quality early childhood education programs are especially effective for children from low-income families or otherwise disadvantaged children.

Many of the families of late-born children affected by the change in kindergarten entry age year will be forced to find child care arrangements for an additional year. Without the implementation of the Early Childhood Education Program, these displaced children may not attend a high-quality early education program in this extra year prior to kindergarten entry. Many working families are not able to afford the cost of tuition at a high-quality early education program as they struggle to make ends meet in Hawaii, one of the states with the highest cost of living in the nation.

The proposed Early Childhood Education Program would provide services to all eligible children and provide families and children access to participating high-quality early childhood education programs which will incorporate the following quality standards in their program:

- 1) Positive teacher-child interactions;
- 2) Use of individual child assessments for ongoing instructional planning based upon all areas of childhood development and learning, including cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional approaches to learning and health and physical development;
- 3) Family engagement; and
- 4) Curricula alignment with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards which align with Department of Education's Common Core State Standards, State Content and Performance Standards, and General Learner Outcomes for grades kindergarten to twelve.

In addition, the Executive Office on Early Learning may provide support and resources to participating programs to incorporating the quality standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means  
March 25, 2014  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Re: HB 2276, HD1, SD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education

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

**The Early Learning Advisory Board supports HB 2276, HD1, SD1** which establishes, upon ratification of the amendment to article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, as proposed in Senate Bill No. 1084, introduced in the Regular Session of 2013, a statewide early childhood education program. This program will consist of providers of high-quality early childhood education delivered in either of Hawaii's two official languages to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that a children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

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.

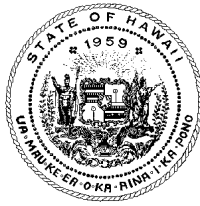
Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters  
Chair, Early Learning Advisory Board

State of Hawaii Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB)  
[elab.k12.hi.us](http://elab.k12.hi.us)



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**TED SAKAI**  
DIRECTOR

**Martha Torney**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Max Otani**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Shawn Tsuha**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL (HB) 2276, HOUSE DRAFT (HD) 1, SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1  
RELATING TO  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
by  
Ted Sakai, Director  
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 25, 2014; 9:10 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) would like to comment on HB 2276, HD 1, SD 1. PSD is in **support** of this bill which establishes an Early Childhood Education Program to advance early learning initiatives for the children of Hawaii.

PSD believes that there is a relationship between the lack of education and criminality. In Fiscal Year 2013, out of 874 incarcerated adults assessed by PSD, 428 were without a high school diploma. Seventy-five percent of the 428 tested between the third and seventh grade level.

High-quality early childhood education programs using evidence-based methods promotes a solid foundation for student success in school and in adult life, and hopefully, steer them away from a life of crime.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2276 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2276 HD1 SD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education.

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.

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.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Education  
Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

March 25, 2014

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

This testimony is submitted in support for HB2276 HD1 SD1, establishing the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports the establishment of a statewide Early Childhood Education Program within the State Early Learning System, and the financial appropriation to support the program. We agree that offering various options to families, involving public-private partnerships in early learning to best utilize existing resources, including family-child interaction early learning programs, and also using underutilized facilities at our public schools for early education programs, provides a range of choices for quality early learning programs.

We have been particularly concerned about the late-born four year olds, who will not be able to attend public Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 year. Two sessions ago, the Coalition testified that we preferred that Junior Kindergarten (JK) not be terminated without a guarantee in law that all "late-born" impacted students will have a state-funded early learning program as a replacement to meet their educational needs. Therefore, we look forward to a comprehensive Early Learning System established by the law.

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 (\*)



March 23, 2014

TO: Chair David Ige  
Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Deborah Zysman  
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB2276 HD1 SD1: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance **supports HB2276 HD1 SD1**, which would implement, upon the ratification, the amendment to Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, a statewide early childhood education program. GBA has been a strong supporter of efforts to expand access to early learning opportunities to families and their keiki for the past decade; HB2276 HD1 SD1 will provide the foundation on which to build the early learning system Hawaii needs and deserves.

There is no debate that exposure to early learning opportunities, including preschool, can have long lasting positive influence on children. We know, for example, that over 85% of a child's brain is developed by the age of five. Moreover, we know that almost 50% of Hawaii's four-year-olds receive little or no formal school readiness experience before entering kindergarten. Despite positive advances over the past two year, Hawaii still remains one of less than a dozen states without a statewide early childhood education program. Ultimately, this means that our Department of Education (DOE) system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of early learning experience. By investing in our four-year-olds early, we help save our DOE system, and teachers, time and money.

SB2276 HD1 SD1 would provide a blueprint to guide our state in creating a statewide community early learning system that incorporates multiple delivery systems, including family-child interactive learning (FCIL) programs and center-based programs, and will utilize existing high-quality non-profit community preschools and preschools that exist in some Department of Education schools. This proposal is the most cost effective, financially practical, high-quality delivery system that our state can provide at this time.

This bill would also ensure that Hawaii is able to compete for federal funds specifically for early learning programs, including the \$250 million new state preschool competitive grant program that was part of the recent bipartisan appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed by President Obama.

Most importantly this bill would provide hope to the thousands of families across Hawaii, lower and middle-income, who desperately need a little help to afford to send their keiki to preschool. Our families pay some of the highest costs for early learning services in the country – in some cases over

\$800/month. This bill helps demonstrate our commitment to finally making early learning a reality and affordable to more families.

The public supports this move to expand preschool to Hawaii's keiki. The recent Star Advertiser poll (2/18/14) reported that **62%** of Hawaii voters support amending the constitution to create a public/private preschool system.

GBA strongly supports the passage of HB2276 HD1 SD1 and the equitable, high-quality, statewide community early learning system that Hawaii's keiki desperately deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deborah Zysman', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2014

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211  
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2276, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB2276, HD1, SD1, relating to early childhood education. Kamehameha Schools strongly supports the efforts of the legislature to enhance the early education opportunities across the state. Therefore, we support HB2276, which establishes, upon ratification of the amendment to article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, as proposed in Senate Bill No. 1084, introduced in the Regular Session of 2013, a statewide early childhood education program. This program will consist of providers of high-quality early childhood education delivered in either of Hawaii's two official languages to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that a children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

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

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



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

The Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 9:00 a.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 211

House Bill 2276, HD1, SD1- Relating to Early Childhood Education

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) **supports** HB 2276, HD1, SD1. It clearly states that high quality programs would be provided through public and community based programs through either of the state's two official languages.

HAEYC sees the support of programs to reach high quality as a priority that would benefit children and families. The Executive Office on Early Learning should support, or find support, for programs to incorporate quality standards into programs.

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



## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
Website: [www.auw.org](http://www.auw.org)



**Aloha United Way**

## Cover Sheet

**Testifying Agency:** Aloha United Way  
Kim Gennaula, President & CEO

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

**Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.**

**Conference Room 211**

**HB 2276, HD1, SD1: Relating to Early Childhood Education: Testimony in Support**

## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
Website: [www.auw.org](http://www.auw.org)



March 24, 2014

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 211

Re: HB 2276, HD1, SD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education - SUPPORT

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports HB 2276, HD1, SD1, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success.

HB 2276, HD1, SD1 is important because in an era of fiscal constraint, it enables the State of Hawaii to use the collective impact of both public and private organizations to address the critical problem of preparing our keiki for school. Working as a community we can truly leverage the benefits of public-private partnerships.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. HB 2276, HD1, SD1 is the foundation to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 2276, HD1, SD1.

Sincerely,



Kim Gennaula  
President & Chief Executive Officer



Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
9:00 AM  
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON WAYS AND MEANS

**RE: HB 2276 HD1 SD1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education**

Chair Ige, 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 2276 HD 1 SD 1** which will create a much-needed early childhood program in our state upon ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution. 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.

We have heard the proverbial “cart before the horse” argument used by some, but that is not the case here; when the Constitutional Amendment passes during the 2014 election, HB 2276 HD 1 SD 1 will allow the Office of Early Learning to continue proceeding with the development of a comprehensive early childhood system using public-private partnerships to build upon already-existing high-quality non-profit child care providers through a mixed-delivery system. Due to limited resources and funds, it is imperative that the public and private sectors collaborate on this effort to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity for access to a quality early childhood education. This is a win-win situation for both sides, as it will increase the number of jobs in the public preschools and ensure that private providers can continue to exist; most importantly it will benefit all of our keiki and provide them with opportunities they may otherwise not be able to afford.

As the association that represents the voices of the private and independent schools, we are eager and willing to support the state in its efforts and believe that families should have choices when it comes to the education of their children. There is no one-size-fits-all mode of delivery for that education, so it will be important to have the support of group child care centers, group child care homes and family-child interaction learning programs.

Private providers will enter into contracts with the state to ensure that quality standards are met and that participating schools are not in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and do not engage in discriminatory practices.

It is clearly understood that this **is not** a voucher program, nor is that what we hope to move toward.

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

Sincerely,  
Robert M. Witt, M.Ed.  
Executive Director



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

**Board of Directors**

*Howard Garval, Chair  
Nanci Kreidman, Vice Chair  
Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair  
Jerry Rauckhorst, Treasurer  
Liz Chun, Secretary  
Susan Chandler  
Jan Dill  
Victor Geminiani  
Auli'i George  
Marya Grambs  
John McComas  
Robert Naniole  
Ruthann Quitiquit  
Darcie Scharfenstein  
Alan Shinn  
Laura Smith*

TO: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members, Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211**

**Testimony in Support of HB2276 HD1 SD1, Relating to Early Childhood Education.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB2276 HD1 SD1, which establishes the Early Childhood Education program. 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.

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

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of HB2276. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2014 11:49:13 AM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/22/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alfred Castle	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support all bills related to school readiness. It is essential that Hawaii catch up to our mainland peers and especially that we invest in early childhood education for at risk children and families. This bill should have been passed 10 years ago and we need to move on this this session.

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

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To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair  
  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Liz Chun, Early Education Policy Consultant

Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 9:00 am, Conference Room 211

Subject: **HB2276 HD1 SD1: Relating to Early Childhood Education**

I submit this testimony **in strong support for the early childhood education plan as described in HB2276 HD1 SD1.**

For over 20 years the Hawaii legislature repeatedly passed legislation which professes to support young children – but not truly included the funding nor allowed the implementation of an early childhood program. This year is the time for action that truly begins a program.

Across the State, parents have come forward to plead for investment in a statewide preschool system. Kindergarten teachers tell us children who have not attended preschool – especially those at risk – are not ready. Local advocates for young children have made the research case as to why a state investment in early learning is essential for Hawaii.

**There is a plan!**

- **A variety of sites for delivering programs have been articulated. Each of these sites are part of the early education system in Hawaii. They each reach children in ways which meet the needs of parents and are adapted to the necessary geographical reach of Hawaii's early childhood programs.**
- **We need to support the following programs as part of this system:**
  - **center-based programs including those run by faith-based providers as far as state and federal laws allow**
  - **group child care homes and family child care homes**
  - **programs on department of education school campuses;**
  - **family-child interaction learning programs.**
- Child assessment and data collection plans have been defined.
- Programs will be required to follow early childhood standards for programs and content.
- Quality of programs will be assured.

Please let this be the year in which the quality early childhood program finally becomes a reality.

Contact Information: [lizchun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lizchun@hawaii.rr.com)

Testimony To  
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
Conference Room 211

Re: HB 2276, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a recently retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2276, HD1, SD1, relating to early childhood education which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The purpose of this bill is to implement a statewide early childhood education program of high-quality providers following the ratification of the amendment to article X of the Hawaii State Constitution. Both my own experience as a Head of School and the abundance of research on school success confirm the value of high quality early childhood education for all children. Benefits are noted in school readiness, general school success and long-term quality of life and contributions as community members. In addition, dollars invested in early education pay dividends for communities as a whole by reducing costs for remediation in schools, reduction in crime and welfare expenses along with reduced homelessness and substance abuse. A study in Hawaii completed in 2008 by Good Beginnings Alliance determined that for every dollar invested in early learning a four dollar plus return could be expected.

While we recognize that early learning for our at-risk children can help to lower the achievement gap by improving school readiness, we also know that all children regardless of family income can benefit from early childhood education. There is growing concern that our lower middle income families will not be able to provide an early learning experience for their children unless a statewide system is implemented. Such a system will be voluntary and also culturally sensitive offering choices to families for placement of their children.

The passage of the constitutional amendment will enable the State to establish a statewide system that will create a public/private partnership supporting greater capacity for four year-olds utilizing the private sector infrastructure and provide for higher quality for all providers built upon standards aligned with educational outcomes. This bill will guide the implementation of Hawaii's much needed early learning system.

I hope you will consider it favorably.





March 24, 2014  
Hearing on Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Conference Room 211  
In support of HB2276 HD1 SD1

To Whom It May Concern:

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

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of HB2276 HD1 SD1 relating to early childhood education, as it establishes an Early Child Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes; Effective upon the ratification on a constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education.

We have a plethora of research that demonstrates the benefits quality early learning experiences have on young children, including a high financial return on early learning investment. According to the Good Beginnings Alliance, for every \$1 invested in quality early learning programs, Hawaii receives an approximate \$4.20 return on investment. This return on investment includes, but is not limited to, higher retention rates; lower teen pregnancy/parent rates; higher college entrance numbers; and less money spent on incarceration.

Investing in a statewide Early Childhood Education Program makes economic sense for our current workforce (i.e., working parents have access to quality care that they can afford making them better functioning employees, as well as creating jobs for early childhood care professionals) as well as our future workforce (i.e., higher graduation rates, students successfully attending four-year colleges more often, holding jobs longer, and having higher lifetime earnings).

In addition to improving their personal economic value (i.e., higher wages), preschool education has a direct impact on society's financial future (i.e., individuals who earn more money, spend more money).

Since the most brain development takes place between birth & age five it only makes sense to invest money in the creation and continual funding & implementation a statewide Early Childhood Education Program.

It is time for all of Hawaii's residents to view a statewide early learning program *not as an expense but an investment*. When we invest in the creation of an early learning program, we invest in Hawaii's future

If we want Hawaii to be the Aloha State, we need to show Aloha to our youngest residents by investing in their education upfront. Creating an early learning program that is voluntary that offers families a variety of choices is a wise decision. It is the right decision.

The time to invest in our keiki is now. Hawaii cannot wait any longer. The Aloha State deserves better. Our keiki deserve better.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2276 HD1 SD1



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ekekela@ahapunanaleo.org](mailto:ekekela@ahapunanaleo.org)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2014 10:33:08 AM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Mar 25, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ekekela Aiona	Aha Punana Leo	Support	No

Comments:

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24 Malaki 2014

Kōmike: Ways and Means

Lā Ho'olohe Pila: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 @ 9am

Lumi hālāwai: Conference Room 211

Mana'o: Testimony in **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** of HB 2276 H.D.1: Relating to Early Childhood Education.

Aloha e ka Lunaho'omalu 'o David Ige a me ka Hope Lunaho'omalu 'o Michelle Kidani, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'olako Kālā:

Aloha Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

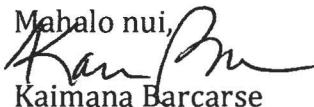
'O au 'o Kaimana Barcarse, ka Pelekikena o ka 'Ahahui Sīwila 'o Ke Aloha 'Āina. My name is Kaimana Barcarse, President of the 'Ahahui Sīwilia 'o Ke Aloha 'Āina (Civic Club).

Eia nō au ke hō'ike mana'o nei i ke kākō'o i ka pila HB 2276 H.D.1 **me nā loli**: I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2276 H.D.1 with amendments:

Page 20 section 2 (e) (4) Alignment with the Hawai'i early learning and development standards **APPROPRIATE FOR EITHER OFFICIAL STATE LANGUAGES**, which align with department of education standards, including common core state standards, state content and performance standards, and general learner outcomes for grade kindergarten to twelve, to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children **INTO HAWAII'S SYSTEM OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony of this bill.

Mahalo nui,



Kaimana Barcarse

Pelekikena

'Ahahui Sīwila 'o Ke Aloha 'Āina (Civic Club)

March 25, 2014  
Hearing on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 9 a.m.  
Committee on Education  
Conference Room 414  
In support of HB2276 HD1 SD1



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 a 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 HB2276 HD1 SD1 relating to early childhood education, as it establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Research has documented that brain development takes place between birth & age five. This amazing growth & development is why we believe it is imperative for our state to invest funds to create an Early Childhood Education Program for our state.

In 2008 Good Beginnings Alliance, a non-profit advocacy organization, conducted an economic analysis. In it they calculated a return on investment of \$4.20 for every \$1 invested in a statewide early learning program for Hawaii.

Because screening is a vital component to child development and school readiness, in addition to all of the items outlined in HB2276 HD1 SD1, ***we would like to request that the school readiness services made available to assist families include, but not be limited to, developmental, vision, and hearing screening.*** When children are properly diagnosed through early screenings we increase their chances to succeed in kindergarten because their developmental needs have been identified early, giving their family and practitioners appropriate time to provide them with the tools they need to succeed in life long learning.

There is a need for this particular measure in order for the state to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children. It is time for us to seriously *invest* in Hawaii's future by investing in its keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2276 HD1 SD1.



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 WAYS AND MEANS

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

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014

RE: H.B. 2276, H.D.1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair David Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly opposes H.B. 2276, H.D. 1, S.D. 1**, relating to early childhood education, and if ratified by the electorate of Hawaii, implements an amendment to Article X, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution to allow State of Hawaii taxpayers money to pay the private school tuitions of children who attend private preschools.

HSTA believes that this Constitutional Amendment empowers the Hawaii State Legislature to create a voucher system whereby public taxpayer's hard earned money is given to certain privileged preschool students to pay for their private preschool tuition.

HSTA believes that a voucher system is unfair to the Hawaii taxpayers because it uses their hard earned dollars which they pay in taxes to the State to pay for private school tuition for a few privileged preschoolers who the State Welfare Department deems is worthy of getting free money to pay for private school tuition. The State Department of Human Services is in reality the State Welfare Department because it hands out and administers food stamps, welfare checks and welfare rent payments.

H.B. 2276, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 places the responsibility to administer this private preschool program to the State Welfare Department. HSTA believes that such an important function as preschool education should be administered by the State Department of Education and should be integrated into the public education continuum.

Just as important is the fact that private preschools are disqualified from participating in the Federal school breakfast and school lunch programs. Thus, the State will be paying private preschools substandard meals.

If this committee is inclined to adopt H.B. 2276, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 then the HSTA believes that the following amendments to this bill are necessary in order fulfill the intent of creating a well-functioning preschool administrative program. The HSTA amends the bill to add the definition of a voucher program. **A voucher program is any program where State money or funds are used to directly or indirectly pay a preschool, including a private preschool, to educate a student.**

We hope that the Administration is in agreement with the HSTA that this new preschool program shall not operate or be a voucher program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong opposition of H.B. 2276, HD1, S.D. 1.**