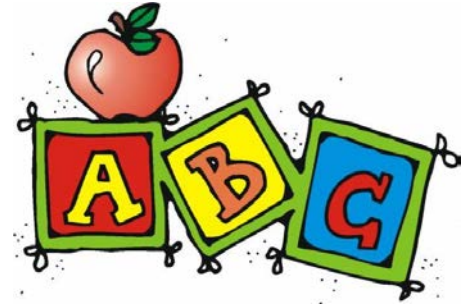


# HB2276

# HD1



Measure Title: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Report Title: Early Childhood Education Program

Description: Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Effective on July 1, 2030, and upon the ratification of a constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2276 HD1)

Companion: [SB2826](#)

Package: Governor

Current Referral: EDU, WAM

Introducer(s): SOUKI (Introduced by request of another party)



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING  
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD  
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of  
H.B. 2276 H.D. 1, Relating to Early Childhood Education  
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 2276, House 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).

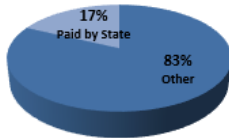
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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

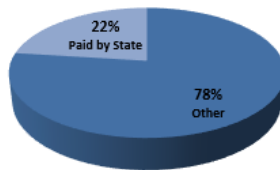
**SY 2014-15 / FY 2015**

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



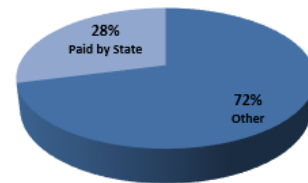
**SY 2015-16 / FY 2016**

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



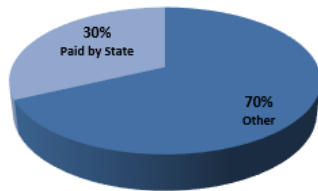
**SY 2016-17 / FY 2017**

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



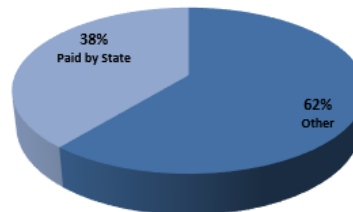
**SY 2017-18 / FY 2018**

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



**SY 2018-19 / FY 2019**

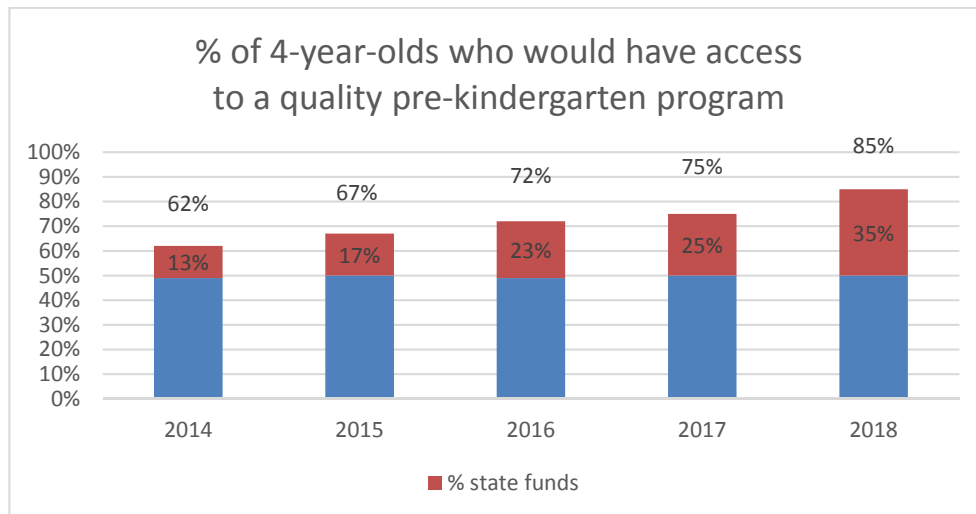
\$47.9 Million / 38%  
 \$125 Million Total (All Sources)



**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.





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

**Date:** 03/12/2014

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

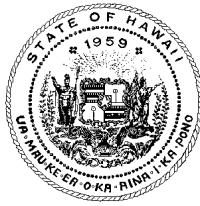
**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 2276,HD1(hscr896-14) RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Effective on July 1, 2030, and upon the ratification of a constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of public funds for private early childhood education. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB2276 HD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports the substantive content of HB 2276 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 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  
RELATING TO  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
by  
Ted Sakai, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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

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

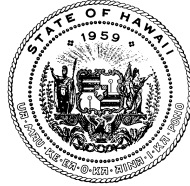
Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in **support** of HB 2276, HD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education. This bill establishes an Early Childhood Education Program to advance early learning initiatives for the children of Hawaii.

We believe 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 present this testimony.



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. 2276, H.D. 1, Relating to Early Childhood Education**

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

**March 12, 2014**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this administrative  
2 proposal.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this legislation is to establish a statewide Early Childhood  
5 Education Program within the Early Learning System if the Constitutional Amendment passes. This  
6 measure sets the theoretical foundation for the early childhood education program.

7 The Department believes that early childhood development begins prenatally with the care of the  
8 mother and the responsive families and communities in which children grow and develop and that  
9 children need comprehensive and quality early childhood educational experiences to achieve their  
10 optimal development. The Department supports the Executive Office on Early Learning's (EOEL)  
11 Early Childhood Education program and we look forward to working with the EOEL to ensure that  
12 children are healthy and ready to learn.

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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
March 12, 2014 at 3:00 pm  
By Dr. Joanne Itano  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

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

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

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2276 HD1 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, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 543-2202  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
www.auw.org

March 10, 2014

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair

Re: HB2276, HD1 Relating to Early Learning – SUPPORT  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 12, 2014; Room 414; 3:00 PM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports HB2276, HD1 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 our children's future educational and career success.

HB2276 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. HB2276 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 HB2276, HD1.

Sincerely,

Kim Gennaula  
President & Chief Executive Officer



**PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT**  
FOUNDATION

11Mar14

To: The Senate Committee on Education  
From: Partners In Development Foundation  
Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2276 HD1: Relating to Early Childhood Education

Aloha Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of this Senate Committee on Education.

As long time providers of Early Education to predominantly Native-Hawaiian keiki of preschool age, Partners In Development Foundation strongly supports this Legislation.

Through our Tutu & Me Traveling Preschool Program, we have reached thousands of children and their caregivers, most of whom are of low and moderate income, through a hands-on *curriculum* (as opposed to “day-care” services) provided at six communities on the island of O’ahu, ten communities on the Big Island, four on Kaua’i, two communities on Molokai and four communities on Maui. We have experienced first-hand the positive effect that this resource has made in their lives.

In addition, our Ka Pa'alana program also provides early education services to homeless communities, which has helped us to develop a rapport of trust, that allow us to transition these families into shelters where we can further assist in finding jobs for the adult members and in some cases, assist in getting them permanent housing.

The Ka Pa'alana traveling preschool for the homeless is the only such program in the nation that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The NAEYC through strict assessment procedures has determined that Ka Pa'alana's Hope Shelter preschool meets, and in many instances exceeds, the high standards required for NAEYC accreditation.

Our experience and data has demonstrated that Early Education is essential in preparing our keiki to meet the scholastic challenges before them, and more importantly, succeed. And, in some cases it is more than just about Early Education, but rather about family stability.

We humbly ask this Committee on Education to pass this important Legislation for the future of our children.

Mahalo Nui,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billy Richards". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Billy Richards  
Director of Communications  
Partners In Development Foundation





96 Pu'uhonu Place  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 935-4304  
(808) 969-7512

www.ahapunanaleo.org

**Ka Papa Alaka'i**  
*Board of Directors*

Kauanoa Kamanā,  
*Pelekikena*

'Alohilani Rogers,  
*Kākau 'Ōlelo*

Ka'iu Kimura,  
*Pu'ukū*

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Hulliau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

**Ka Luna Ho'okele**  
*Executive Director*

M. 'Ekekelā Aiona

**Nā Papahana Pūnana Leo**

*Pūnana Leo Programs*

**Nā Kūia Pūnana Leo**  
*Pūnana Leo Family-Based  
Preschool Program*

Pūnana Leo o Hilo  
Pūnana Leo o Waimea  
Pūnana Leo o Kona  
Pūnana Leo o Maui  
Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i  
Pūnana Leo o Honolulu  
Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko  
Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa  
Pūnana Leo o Wa'ianā  
Pūnana Leo o Mānoa  
Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i

**Honuakai**

*Hawaiian Voyaging Science*

**Niuhāhiki**

*Hawaiian Language Online*

**Hearing: Senate Committee on Education**

March 12, 2014 3:00p  
Conference Room 414

Re: **HB2276 HD1** - Relating to Early Childhood Education

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

My name is 'Ekekelā Aiona, Executive Director for the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of HB2276 HD1 with amendments**, specifically adding the underlined:

Page 20 Section 2 (e) (4) Alignment with the Hawaii 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 grades kindergarten to twelve, to facilitate a seamless and high-quality educational experience for children INTO HAWAII'S SYSTEM OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

Upon the ratification of the amendment to article X, section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, this bill will establish a statewide early childhood program to be provided in either of Hawai'i's two official languages. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo views these amendments as critical to the implementation of quality standards and measures that are aligned to the language of instruction.

This bill will provide access for Hawai'i's families to quality early childhood education in the medium of the Hawaiian language. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, a non-profit Native Hawaiian educational organization established in 1983 due in great part to our family engagement component, is the only statewide Hawaiian medium early learning preschool system. With 11 full-day and year-round center-based sites on Hawai'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu and Kaua'i, our mission to revitalize the Hawaiian language through high quality preschool experiences will be greatly and positively impacted with the passing of this bill.

Thirty years of grassroots, family-driven child-centered 'Aha Pūnana Leo early childhood education and follow-up K-12 Hawaiian medium education have proven successful with Pūnana Leo graduates equipped to pursue post high degrees within the State of Hawai'i and beyond at such prestigious institutions as Dartmouth, Long Island University Post, Loyola Marymount, Notre Dame, Oxford, and Stanford. The vision of a successful Hawai'i high school graduate is embodied in a Pūnana Leo child whose foundation for success in school and life was formed at a Pūnana Leo preschool.

Mahalo nui



Via email [buffy@kamaainakids.com](mailto:buffy@kamaainakids.com)

Thank you for your continued interest in Early Childhood education and for recognizing the role that a quality early childhood program plays in the development of young children. As one of the largest providers of early childhood services in the state we know first-hand what a quality program can do for children and parents. Kama`aina Kids has “grown up” in this industry and prides itself on its multiple partnerships that exist within the company. Serving almost 10,000 children daily we have created ways to work together with government, the Department of Education and community partners. Our youngest enrolled keiki, the preschoolers, grew up in our preschools and have continued to grow and develop via our A+ locations, our intersession or “out of school” programs and our environmental education and community help projects at both Camp Timberline and He`eia State Park.

**WE BELIVE IN PARTNERSHIPS!**

Upon the passing of the Constitutional Amendment Kama`aina Kids can support the state and the four year old population by partnering with them and offering high quality programs which prepare these children for the next phase of learning. Partnering with the private preschool providers saves the state money, utilizes an existing system and supports parents and children as they move forward. Thank you in advance for supporting a movement that would help to provide these much needed services to all keiki not just a few. We applaud you.

The company operates 22 preschools where there is room to partner with the state on this all important issue.

We are committed to doing our part in educating our parents and community partners in the importance of the constitutional amendment. We are preparing letters, flyers and ads in support of, and to help families understand the importance of, the constitutional amendment.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our voice. We are committed to this industry, to our families and to our keiki.

Sincerely,

Ray Sanborn, President & CEO Kama`aina Kids  
Buffy Owens, Vice President and Preschool Division Manager



**Testimony to the Senate on Education**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2014**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Conference Room 414**

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

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

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable supports HB 2276 HD1, to implement, upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, by establishing a statewide early childhood education program consisting of providers of high-quality early childhood education to assist families in establishing a solid foundation for success in school so that children graduate from high school prepared for college and a career.

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

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

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

More importantly, our members are concerned about their employees and their families. They believe that every child should be given the opportunity to succeed and success is easier to create with early childhood programs that provide them with a quality education. We strongly support the public/private delivery system contemplated by the legislation. As previous People's

Pulse polls have shown, over 80% of Hawaii's residents believe in the importance of funding of early learning.

We believe that we are at a critical juncture for our youngest of children. Many of our members themselves are part of the Be My Voice Campaign and the Hawaii Business Roundtable fully supports the Be My Voice Campaign which will help to provide a stronger future for our keikis.

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

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director  
Hawaii Business Roundtable



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 2276, HD1- 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. 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





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

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

**RE: HB 2276 HD 1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education**

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 2276 HD 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 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. 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



**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 2276 – Relating to Early Childhood Education and HB1676**

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

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

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

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 HB2276 HD1, 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

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\*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 (\*)



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

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

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB2276, HD1 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.

March 12, 2014

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

Re: HB 2276, HD1, 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** 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



Committee: Committee on Education  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 3:00 p.m.  
Place: Room 414  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii with Comments on HB 2276, HD1 (Relating to Early Childhood Education)

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) offers comments on HB 2276, HD1, which establishes a statewide early childhood education program subject to the ratification of article X, section 1 of the Hawaii Constitution.

In short, as currently drafted, HB 2276, HD1 does not contain the requisite protections to ensure that: (1) the contemplated programs comply with the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution or the corresponding provision of the Hawaii Constitution, article I, § 4 (“Establishment Clause”), which, *inter alia*, prohibits state funding of religious indoctrination; and (2) the programs adequately safeguard against unlawful discrimination.

First, HB 2276, HD1 specifically permits direct funding to private educational providers, including those which are sectarian and religious in nature. This poses grave concerns under the Establishment Clause. Whereas the United States Supreme Court has upheld public funding of religious schools via voucher programs and tax credits, the Supreme Court has never been faced with a situation like the one proposed here, in which a government is directly funding religious proselytization. It is unclear whether this program would survive a legal challenge.

Second, although the bill states that eligible providers shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws (which is true of any legislation), the bill fails to provide specific guidelines to shape and direct the contemplated program. The ACLU suggests that the Committee consider including language to direct specifically that private providers are prohibited from engaging in discrimination, sectarian instruction, indoctrination, and other religious activities.

Third, the bill should be amended to identify necessary protections for a number of potentially applicable federal and state non-discrimination provisions, including, but not limited to: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, or national origin; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibiting discrimination based on sex; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801  
T: 808-522-5900  
F: 808-522-5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)



Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on  
Education  
March 12, 2014  
Page 2 of 3

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and H.R.S. § 378-2 (regarding gender identity and sexual orientation).

To address the Establishment Clause and potential discrimination issues, the ACLU of Hawaii suggests the following amendments:

- Insert new (e) as follows (page 19, after line 14) (and renumber accordingly):

(e) All eligible providers as contemplated herein:

- (1) Shall not exclude a child based on the family's or child's religious beliefs or lack thereof;
- (2) Shall not be used to proselytize or attempt to persuade or convert children or their families to or from religion or a particular religious persuasion;
- (3) Shall not incorporate provider-sponsored prayer, worship, or other religious exercise, or religious instruction;
- (4) Shall not require children or their families or guardians to participate in faith-based or church-sponsored activities or services which are separate from the school readiness program; and
- (5) Shall not, when practicable, conduct the program in rooms that contain overt religious iconography, and shall, when practicable, cover religious iconography in rooms in which the program is conducted; and
- (6) Agree, by contract, that the provider of early childhood education programs shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, ancestry, sexual orientation, or disability in employment, admissions, or enrollment for the programs and services provided under this statute.

Finally, HB 2276, HD1 should be further amended to include assurances that the State will seek to monitor compliance with the above-mentioned anti-discrimination provisions. To that end, the ACLU of Hawaii suggests the following amendment:

**American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i**  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808-522-5900  
F: 808-522-5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on  
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- Replace subsection (h) (page 21, line 1)(which should now be subsection (i)) (suggested insertions underlined):

The office shall, no later than December 31, 2015, adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to chapter 91 necessary to carrying out the purposes of this section, including compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and, expressly addressing: (i) a provider's compliance with subsection (e)'s anti-discrimination requirements; and (ii) reporting and monitoring requirements that ensure a provider's initial and continued compliance with subsection (e).

Although the ACLU of Hawaii fully supports high-quality early education and agrees that it is essential to childhood development and future performance, these publicly funded private programs must be developed in a way that protects against unintended (and unlawful) discrimination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lois Perrin  
Legal Director  
ACLU of Hawaii

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 45 years.*

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808-522-5900  
F: 808-522-5909  
E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)  
[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)



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

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

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2276 HD1 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.



Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Relating To House Bill 2276, 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 HB 2276 HD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education**, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System.

This bill will enable the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to contract with private community-based providers to offer quality educational programs for children, preparing them for when begin kindergarten.

As the bill clearly states in Section 1, the intention is not to create a voucher system, which the Democratic Party of Hawaii does not support. Rather, it is important for EOEL to be able to partner with private providers in order to meet the needs of over 17,000 children as they prepare for kindergarten. Most of these kids will attend preschool at one of these private, community-based schools.

Investing in early childhood education is the best investment we can make in the future of our society. The party feels that this measure is consistent with democratic values of equality and access to opportunity by providing access to early learning classes for children from low-income families. This strengthens their chances of succeeding in school and plays a role in their educational development. It is our hope that every child in our state will have the opportunity to excel and be college and career ready.

The Party believes providing preschool options for Hawaii's young children will benefit all of us and encourages the committee to vote favorably on this bill.

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

**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.



March 10, 2014

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

FROM: Deborah Zysman  
Good Beginnings Alliance

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

The Good Beginnings Alliance **supports HB2276 HD1**, 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 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 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.

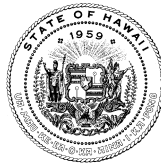
The public supports this move to expand preschool to Hawaii's keiki. The recent Star Advertiser poll (2/18/14) reported that **62%** of Hawaii voters support amending the constitution to create a public/private preschool system.

GBA strongly supports the passage of HB2276 HD1 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', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance



**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





## 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:

### **HB2276, HD1 – Relating to Early Childhood Education**

HB 2276 establishes the Early Childhood Education Program. The Hawaii Community Foundation supports this bill. 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms unprepared to learn. Quite often these children will struggle and lag behind their peers for years to come. As proposed, the Early Childhood Education Program will require both the public and private sector providers as well as families in order to meet the needs of all children.

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



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.



# Position Statement

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

The National Association of School Psychologists believes that services for young children should be coordinated, prevention-oriented and relevant to all young children, and grounded in evidence-based practice. NASP believes services should be linked to important goals for all young children and evaluated for effectiveness on a routine basis to ensure children, programs, and systems of care are making meaningful progress toward those goals. NASP recognizes that important skills in early childhood often bridge multiple developmental domains (social, motor, communication, cognitive, and early academic) and therefore emphasizes the identification of functional and generative skills that can be assessed and targeted for intervention across a number of contexts relevant to the everyday lives of children (Slentz & Hyatt, 2008). NASP also recognizes that important cultural and linguistic differences exist that may alter skill sequences, family priorities, and decisions about what skills require intervention.

### FOCUS ON ALL YOUNG CHILDREN

The National Association of School Psychologists believes in the importance of quality experiences for all young children and supports:

- Policies, programs, and funding to increase universal access to high-quality education and care experiences, provide support for caregivers, and promote health, safety, and development for all children.
- An active and highly collaborative role for school psychologists in early education and care settings that results in innovative approaches to assessment and intervention for all children.
- Communication systems that promote sharing information between early education settings and kindergarten programs to prepare young children for formal schooling and to prepare schools to meet the diverse needs of young children and families (Carlton & Winsler, 1999).
- Models of education that focus on quality experiences prior to kindergarten and seamless service as children transition to kindergarten, facilitated by coordination of curriculum, instruction, and services between the early education and the K–12 setting (Bogard & Takanishi, 2005).
- Partnerships with families and communities to support young children through the transition from early education to the K–12 setting and to encourage families continued engagement in their child's education.

### EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Response-to-Intervention frameworks (RTI; VanDerheyden & Snyder, 2006), general outcome measurement systems (Fuchs & Deno, 1991), and tiered models of intervention (Hemmeter, Ostrosky, & Fox, 2006) provide a foundation for the practice of school psychology in early care and education. In promoting Response-to-Intervention frameworks in early care and education settings school psychologists should:

- Collaborate with early educators and families to identify instructional foci that reflect important learning goals for all children (e.g., early literacy and numeracy, social competence).
- Assist in implementing a scientific framework for interpreting rate of skill development relative to expectations or criteria for growth.
- Promote a systems-level approach to considering the development of *all* children to ensure that children make gains and those who do not make gains receive support that effectively accelerates their growth.

General outcome measurement systems hold promise for use, and there is increasing evidence to support the use of general outcome measurement systems in early education and care settings (VanDerHeyden, 2005). School psychologists should:

- Assist early educators and administrators to establish valued goals for learning and development and to identify benchmark criteria against which to compare child skill proficiency and growth.
- Lead teams to design and collect general outcome measurement data for all children to make data-based decisions about children’s programming needs.
- Work with early educators to implement progress monitoring systems and use data to inform instruction and intervention to accelerate the progress of all children (Bagnato, 2005).
- Aid kindergarten teachers to use data to plan instruction to accommodate diverse learners as they enter kindergarten.

Tiered models of intervention provide a flexible yet comprehensive structure for meeting the diverse needs of young children. At each tier (e.g., universal, targeted, individualized), school psychologists can collaborate with early educators and families to promote supports that integrate developmentally appropriate learning perspectives with intentional and strategic structured learning experiences.

- At the primary or universal level, school psychologists can assist early educators to identify behaviors essential for school readiness, develop a plan to teach and reinforce those behaviors, and create positive environments that support those behaviors. School psychologists should assist schools in selecting and evaluating instructional and curricula models to ensure adequate opportunities for skill building.
- At the secondary or targeted level, school psychologists should assist teachers and care providers to implement small-group and peer-mediated interventions to increase opportunities for learning for children at-risk.
- At the tertiary or individualized level, school psychologists should guide the collection of individualized data to identify interventions that should effectively solve a problem, evaluate implementation of the intervention, and evaluate the effects of the intervention over time. Interventions grounded in applied behavior analysis have a strong evidence base in early intervention and provide a rich source of intervention strategies for school psychologists. School psychologists should actively collaborate with classroom teachers to modify interventions to increase their use, ecological congruence (e.g., similarity to classroom routines), sustainability over time, and acceptability to parents and teachers.

## **EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Accountability should occur at individual, service program, and system levels. To ensure quality of services at all levels, the National Association of School Psychologists supports:

- The inclusion of all children in evaluation and accountability efforts.
- Meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly families, in identifying valued goals for children, monitoring progress toward goals, and evaluating outcomes.
- The use of a data-based decision-making framework to facilitate sound decision making and increase communication among stakeholders regarding children’s progress toward important goals.
- Formative or responsive assessment practices that inform timely and meaningful changes in service delivery to maximize positive outcomes for all children.
- Coordinated professional development that focuses on evidence-based practices in assessment, instruction, and intervention.

To promote evaluation and accountability efforts that are likely to result in improved outcomes for all young children, school psychologists can assist in collecting, analyzing, and using data to inform service delivery at the individual, program, and system levels. Specifically, school psychologists should:

- Coordinate assessment and evaluation efforts.
- Actively engage families in assessment and intervention efforts.
- Identify appropriate targets for measurement in the context of school readiness.
- Promote the use of systems of measurement that are sensitive to growth over time and that inform instruction and intervention.
- Assist with monitoring progress of individual children as well as large groups of children to evaluate growth at different levels.
- Provide professional development, teacher support, and technical assistance in data-based decision making (i.e., methods of data collection, creating, and interpreting graphs, linking data to programmatic changes).
- Work with families and educators to use data to evaluate outcomes at individual, program, and systems levels and to make changes accordingly.

## **SUMMARY**

The National Association of School Psychologists believes that school psychologists should be active partners in early education and care settings. Such work fits with NASP’s Strategic Plan goals to enhance professional competency and advocacy for all children. School psychologists can collaborate with early educators to create supportive learning environments for all children, effectively promote the identification of children needing intervention, assist with planning and implementation of interventions in the classroom and home setting, and evaluation of intervention effects. Further, school psychologists can provide leadership to evaluate the effects of assessment and intervention efforts at the program level to promote learning for all young children and prevent early and future learning deficits for children found to be at risk.

## **REFERENCES**

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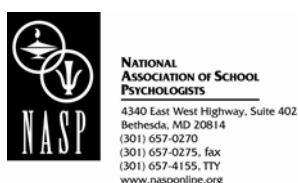
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Adopted by the NASP Delegate Assembly on July 20, 2008.

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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. 2276, H.D.1 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly opposes H.B. 2276, H.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 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.

The State Welfare Department is ill equipped to administer any educational program because its staff simply does not have the proper college education, especially in the field of early childhood education.

It is a fact that many private preschool so-called "teachers" overwhelmingly lack a college degree, many of the lower and as well as mid-level State Welfare Department administrators who also lack college degrees. The state cannot expect administrators who lack college degrees to competently administer an educational program.

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, innutritious meals.

However, if this committee is inclined to adopt H.B. 2276, H.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.

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

However, there is no definition of what constitutes a voucher program that is barred by H.B. No. 2276, H.D. 1. The HSTA contends that **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.**

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





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

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**TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2276, HOUSE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO  
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**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 opposition, with proposed amendments for House Bill 2276, HD1, relating to early childhood education.

We understand that research on the benefits of quality early learning programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Moreover, as of 2011, 42 percent of Hawaii's public school keiki did not attend any form of preschool prior to enrollment in formal education, despite the approximately 420 percent return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, especially for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are "classroom ready," meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success. Thus, we fully support efforts to improve access early childhood education, so long as robust ECE programs are provided through the public school system.

That said, we think this bill puts the cart before the horse. While intended to give voters a clear understanding of what is being proposed by this year's early learning amendment (passed via SB 1084 in 2013), we are concerned that passing implementation legislation prior to the amendment ratification disallows lawmakers the opportunity to craft policy that reflects the voters' will. Voters who have yet to fully explore the complexities of public-private early learning partnerships are likely to be engaged by this year's debate over ratification, leading to insights and discussions not anticipated by policymakers. If our goal is to craft a policy that reflects constituents' concerns, it is imperative that those concerns be afforded a full opportunity to be voiced. Since the early learning amendment is likely to energize voters in a manner similar to 2010's proposal to institute an appointed Hawaii State Board of Education, it should bring diverse perspectives into connection with one another, allowing for new questions to be posed and ideas to be articulated about the shape of our state's ECE ecosystem. It should also be noted that implementation of the early learning system proposed by this measure will require a substantial fiscal commitment, one that should not be allowed to affect budgetary discussions—as it will sure do, given that the commitment will run into the tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars—unless absolutely necessary.

If this bill is to move forward, however, we urge lawmakers to be vigilant in ensuring that the use of public funds for early childhood education programs is not utilized as a predicate for future implementation of private school voucher programs. In the past and in other states, advocates for school vouchers have seized upon any pertinent fiscal reform regarding education to forward their cause, falsely arguing that public funding for any private educational programming, should such programs be deemed successful by future studies, evinces the likely success of educational privatization writ large. We feel that school vouchers would undermine our public education system, the backbone of Hawaii's and the United States' democratic practices, potentially leading to educational discrimination, segregation, and scholastic inequalities that both mirror and exacerbate the socioeconomic disparity of our society. We also strongly encourage your committee to amend this bill to prohibit public funds from being used to subsidize faith-based education, thereby ensuring that funds appropriated to early childhood education as a result of the proposed amendment do not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions. Our concern over religious discrimination comes from the fact that the proposed constitutional amendment on which this legislation is based reads as follows: “There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions because of **race, religion, sex or ancestry**; nor shall public funds be

appropriated for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution, except that public funds may be appropriated for the support or benefit of private early childhood education programs, subject to the non-discrimination provision above, as provided by law, and...etc.” The non-discrimination provision referenced in the proposed amendment, appearing in bold, *does not* include sexual orientation, unless one understands "sex" to refer to sexual orientation. Obama administration officials have asserted this interpretation regarding federal prohibitions of sex discrimination in schools receiving federal funds, but private ECE providers *do not* receive federal funds, begging the question of applicability (also, for what it's worth, the Obama administration won't be in the executive forever and a new executive could assert a different interpretation of the law). Moreover, the only mention of religion or faith contained in this bill says, “Therefore, this program will be delivered through several vehicles: center-based programs, group child care homes, and family child care homes, including those run by faith-based providers as far as state and federal laws allow; programs on department of education school campuses; and family-child interaction learning programs.” Religious-affiliated early learning schools have consistently maintained that the preceding understanding exempts sexual orientation from non-discrimination policies, including those that would apply to religious early learning programs seeking public funds. We do not want to see the state wrapped up in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to a program that oversteps its constitutional bounds by using public funds to promote a specific religious viewpoint, nor do we feel confident (particularly after last year's marriage equality debate) that early learning programs operated by religious or religious-affiliated schools will prevent the insertion of religious doctrine into early learning curricula. Our requested amendment can be enacted by revising the language in Section 2, subsection (e) to include an additional line item stating: **“Nondiscriminatory and religiously neutral classroom environments.”**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Legislative Director*  
IMUAlliance

Testimony To  
The Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
Conference Room 414

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

Dear Chair Tokuda, 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, A Bill for an Act 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.

**Lovejoy Tolentino**

**University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Social Work**

**Committee on Ways and Means**

Senator: Jill N. Tokuda

Senator: Michelle N. Kidani

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014

State Capital, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 414

**RE: HB2276 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.**

Establishes the early childhood education program within the early learning system.

Aloha Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Lovejoy Tolentino and I am a graduate student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB2276**.

Children in Hawaii are not receiving the quality of education that they should be receiving from early childhood educational programs. There are not enough qualified teachers in the classrooms in early childhood programs to provide the children with the proper education before entering school. Children in early education programs today hold the future for tomorrow. I feel that creating more quality early childhood educational programs in either Hawaii's two official languages can help establish a solid foundation for children. This solid early childhood foundation can help increase success in school and the high school graduates and prepares each students college and into their careers. In order for a child to succeed in school, they must feel confident in themselves and be proficient in every subject. I believe a child loses interest the subject when they can't do their schoolwork. Such program can help every child to develop physical, emotion,

social, and language skills before entering elementary school. The HB2276 HD1 bill will support early childhood education programs in providing every child a quality education.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment on this bill. I strongly urge the committee to pass the Bill HB2276 HD1.

Lovejoy Tolentino

Lovejoyt@hawaii.edu

March 10, 2014  
Hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 3 p.m.  
Committee on Education  
Conference Room 414  
In support of HB2276 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 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 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, ***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.

March 10, 2014  
Hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 3 p.m.  
Committee on Education  
Conference Room 414  
In support of HB2276 HD1

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 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 on July 1, 2030, and upon the ratification of a constitutional amendment permitting the appropriation of public funds for 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.

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

TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2276, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION

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

RE: HB 2276 Relating to Early Childhood Education

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2014, 3:00PM  
Conference room 414

As a concerned citizen, I am thankful for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2276, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

As a mother to a young child, I strongly urge this Committee to move the bill forward. Early education lays the foundation for future learning and provides children with the skills to be successful in a classroom setting. Children and families should have access to affordable, equitable, and quality early education as means to improve later outcomes. This form of prevention will increase a child's self-confidence and their pursuit of knowledge.

In closing, I want to reiterate my support of HB 2276 and its contribution to making a stronger society.

Thank You,  
Lauren Gurat  
lwoo@hawaii.edu

11 Malaki 2014

Kōmike: Senate Committee on Education  
Lā Ho'olohe Pila: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 3:00p  
Lumi hālāwai: Conference Room 414

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

Aloha e ka Lunaho'omalu 'o Jill Tokuda a me ka Hope Lunaho'omalu 'o  
Michelle Kidani, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao:  
*Aloha Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and members of the  
Education Committee:*

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

Eia nō au ke hō'ike mana'ō nei i ke kāko'ō i ka pila H.B. 2276 **me nā loli**  
e like me nā mea i hāpai mua 'ia e ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo.  
*I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2276 H.D.1 **with amendments** as  
submitted by the 'Aha Pūnana Leo as follows:*

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 HAWAI'I'S SYSTEM OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

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

Mahalo nui,



Kaimana Barcarse  
Pelekikena

Personal Written Testimony in **Support of H.B. 2276, HD 1**  
Relating to Early Childhood Education  
Senate Education Committee  
March 11, 2014

by, Robyn S. B. Chun

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani & Committee Members:

Thank you for your wisdom when it comes to investing in primary intervention efforts that support Hawai'i's youngest keiki. They represent a wise investment in our collective future.

I am testifying **in support of HB 2276, HD 1** which together with other bills will enable Hawai'i to establish an Early Childhood Education Program that is part of the larger Early Learning System established in section 302L-2 Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The proposed amendments to the Act build on previous legislation and incorporate the contributions from multiple stakeholders. Together they ready the state to implement a mixed-delivery system for children birth through 8-years-old that builds on the strengths and collective resources of our public and community based (private) providers on behalf of our most needy young children and their families.

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 a meaningful and culturally relevant early experience that will address each child's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development regardless of the child's family circumstances.

With the passage of Strong Start legislation (H.B. 3461) at the federal level, the passage of HB 2276, HD 1 and others at our state level are essential. They position the state to bid for federal funding that will make it possible to leverage their funds and access federal resources needed to develop an early learning system in Hawai'i. In order to be eligible for grants, states must demonstrate substantial commitment towards developing a plan, showing cross sector collaboration, and providing access to the kinds of quality early learning experiences that will reduce the disparities experienced by homeless children, English language learners, children with disabilities, and other groups who may struggle throughout their educational careers.

Commitments to early learning have already taken place in 40 of the 50 states (The State of Preschool 2012). In a majority of those 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). With a growing number of our children living in poverty (17%) and nearly half of our keiki entering kindergarten without the opportunity afforded by PreK experiences (48%), this is a critical year to demonstrate the fiscal commitment to early learning that will enable us to access Strong Start funding (Kids Count Hawai'i, 2013).

The Executive Office on Early Learning has demonstrated leadership in coordinating partners on behalf of children. It is building upon years of effort on behalf of many groups and will assure that we move forward drawing from the wisdom and expertise of representatives of our island community and field as we design and implement an early learning system where:

- each young child is assured of a strong foundation so that s/he may succeed educationally and in life,
- families and communities are supported and empowered as partners in assuring their keiki succeed as lifelong learners and contributing members of our communities and society; and,
- there are culturally and geographically responsive program options to address the needs and concerns of our most vulnerable keiki and families.

I support incorporating of quality standards that focus on as positive teacher-child interactions and commitments to family engagement as essential components of a sound early childhood program. I also support the value of assessments that will take into account all developmental domains and which facilitate continuity of each child's experience across birth – 8 settings with the caveat that we must provide practitioners and programs with the professional development resources and support needed to be able to assess children and evaluate programs using ethically responsible methods that respect and honor each child's individual and cultural uniqueness. We shall also need to nurture in our practitioners the ability to use formative assessment to inform meaningful, integrated, content rich and child centered curriculum that supports all areas of development and provides a strong foundation for later educational experiences.

We cannot expect to raise the quality of care in a field marked by woefully inadequate compensation if we do not adequately fund workforce development. Raising the level of practice will only happen if we provide the supports necessary so that more than 18% of our kindergarten teachers have obtained the knowledge and skills embedded in a PK-3 license and we provide the financial incentive and educational opportunities required to recruit and retain birth – PK providers across settings that have a baccalaureate degree with specialized training in child development and early childhood education (HSRRA, 2013-2014; Buchinal, Cryer, Clifford, & Howes, 2002; Early et. al, 2007).

The field of early childhood education has existed for many years without a steady funding base and as a result is characterized by difficulty retaining and growing a highly skilled workforce. As a teacher educator, I am mindful of the investment needed to provide for an adequate infrastructure that results in high quality programs. In order to ensure children can benefit from the kind of quality early learning experiences that can lead to lifelong positive outcomes, I hope that adequate funding will be designated to support all early educators in their professional development needs, to create career and educational pathways for the field, and to attract and retain a highly trained workforce. Without adequate coordination and investment in an infrastructure that can lead to a comprehensive and integrated early learning system, we cannot expect results.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their well-being from the start. This bill represents a positive step forward in helping Hawaii's families provide for their keiki during the early childhood years (birth through age 8 years). It creates an opportunity for shared leadership that listens to and reflects the needs, wisdom, and expertise of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in support of H.B. 2276, HD 1**

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2014 1:07:05 PM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

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

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

Comments: 40 states already have a state early education system. These states include the most conservative states in the USA and high quality early education is considered essential for creating greater educational and economic opportunities for all our families. Hawaii should ahve passed this bill 10-15 years ago. It is inexplicable for a state with such a proud progressive record of educational legislation not being the first to create a high quality public-private system as we did with kindergartens back in the 1940's. Let us get this done and let us get to work for the keiki!

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

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nakoolaniw@gmail.com](mailto:nakoolaniw@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 10, 2014 2:52:11 PM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nako'olani Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in support of HB2276 HD1 with comments. This bill is important as it will allow the children of Hawai'i and their families equal access to quality early learning opportunities in either of Hawai'i's two official languages. I would like to comment that HB2276 HD1 should acknowledge that the standards referred to in this bill must be appropriate for either of Hawai'i's two official languages. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

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**From:** [Logan HSTA Okita](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB2276 Constitutional Amendment - Relating to Early Childhood Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:22:59 AM

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My name is Logan Okita and I would like to submit my testimony in opposition to HB2276 relating to early childhood education. Although I am a National Board Certified Teacher as an Early Childhood Generalist, I do not believe that this bill will help to improve the state of education, especially public education, in Hawaii. Before we spend our money on funding preschool programs that may not be rigorous, developmentally appropriate, or staffed by quality teachers, we need to adequately fund K-12 public education and make kindergarten mandatory. Please take care of what needs to be fixed before starting new programs.

Sincerely,  
Logan T Okita, MEd, NBCT  
1914 10th Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mkhan@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:mkhan@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 08, 2014 3:35:59 PM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/8/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Passage of this bill is necessary. I see it as an empowering bill that especially helps low income families. Hawaii is lagging behind most other high cost of living states in their minimum wage. By this bill, our families have opportunity to lay a solid foundation for their children's future educational and social success. I also like that the bill recognizes early childhood education in Hawaiian and English, but hope that any successes are measured based on the cultural values of our indigenous people and this state, rather than on a western model. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pua\\_kona@yahoo.com](mailto:pua_kona@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:42:51 PM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kehaulani Shintani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I would like to SUPPORT with AMENDMENTS as proposed by the 'Aha Punana Leo. It is essential to recognize standards appropriate to either of the states two official language. Mahalo

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**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jfarnsworth@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jfarnsworth@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 8:16:04 AM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JoAnn Farnsworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: strongly support

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Georgianne Nacionales  
HCR 1 Box 5436  
Keaau, HI 96749

March 11, 2014

House Finance Committee HI

Dear House Finance Committee: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for extending the opportunity to testify on HB2276, relating to early childhood education. **I 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.

As a mother, I encourage getting a strong foundation in the educational system. As a graduate student, I am certain that I would have appreciated this opportunity for myself. Therefore, I support HB2276.

Sincerely,

Georgianne Nacionales

**From:** [emjewel3](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** HB2276  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:46:23 PM

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As an educator who works in the public school system, I believe that early childhood education is crucial. I support this bill even though funding goes to private religious preschools. I believe these schools are already set up to operate efficiently and I think they do a good job of preparing our keiki for kindergarten.

Lisa Whitten  
Kihei, Maui

Sent from Samsung tablet

**CHARLES K.Y. KHIM**

*Attorney-At-Law*

Clifford Center, Suite 502  
810 Richards Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4700

Telephone: (808) 537-5305  
Facsimile: (808) 599-6218  
E-Mail: [ckhim@khimlaw.com](mailto:ckhim@khimlaw.com)

March 11, 2014

**HAWAII STATE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Hon. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Hon. Michelle Kidani

Hearing Date: March 12, 2014  
Hearing Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Hearing Room: 414

**H.B. No. 2276, H.D. 1**

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OR  
WITH AMENDMENTS**

Mmes. Chair and Vice Chair and Hon. Members of this Committee:

My name is Charles K.Y. Khim, Esq. and I am an attorney who has been licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii, the Federal District, Circuit and Supreme Court for 34 years.

I come before this honorable committee as a proud product of the public school system of the Territory of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii. I began my 20 years of formal public school education at Manoa School, attended various public elementary, intermediate and high schools and graduated from the UH main campus with a bachelors

degree in Sociology with a 4.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, highest distinction (had gotten rid of *summa cum laude*), *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi* and the other usual Greek and Latin letters after my degree. **The only private school I attended was law school at Georgetown University, where I graduated on the Dean's List for 67% of my attendance thereat. The public school system prepared me well for private law school.**

However, I have noticed a disturbing trend in **State spending** away from education and towards public welfare. This was first pointed out to me by then State Rep. Stuart Ho when I interviewed him in college for an English project. It has culminated with the Lingle Administration's Lillian Kohler who hails from a socialist country, who bragged before the legislature that under her watch at the State Welfare Dept. (Dept. of Human Serv.) the Welfare Dept.'s budget had become the largest in the State government.

As you can see from my public school background, I am all in favor of public education and public early child education. However, I believe that **this** early education must be conducted and **administered** by the public school system, not the private sector.

Unfortunately, the program this bill creates is **NOT** an education program but rather a welfare child baby sitting program. I have attached to my testimony, a copy of the introductory page from the Seagull Schools, one of the beneficiaries of this bill's transfer of taxpayer



money to the private sector. It describes itself as a child and elderly day care program.

This bill gives governance to the State Welfare Department not the State Department of Education. Thus this bill should be totally revamped to provide that the public school system in conjunction with the University of Hawaii College of Education should create and administer a preschool and early child care program.

Since it is so late in the session, I suggest that this bill be held for this session, revamped and presented next session.

However, if this Committee decides to adopt this bill there are several clarifications that must be made.

In the Senate's companion bill, a definition of the term "underserved children" was added. This definition should be added to this bill since it appears that this bill is the vehicle for the preschool topic.

The bill provides that it does not create a voucher system. Specifically, it states that:

**"Nothing in this section shall be construed to enable the establishment of a voucher program for educational purposes."**

However, the term "voucher program for educational purposes" is not defined. Thus, such a definition is necessary. I have attached statutory language that creates such a definition.

**This bill states that the program created thereunder shall comply with all state and federal laws. In order to clarify this, I suggest that this bill be amended to specifically mention that such a program must comply with the State Service Contract Act, HRS. §103-55. I have appended language which accomplishes the foregoing.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony to this honorable committee.**



## *Seagull Schools - Hawaii Early Education, Hawaii Child Care, and Hawaii Preschool*

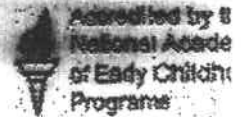
At Seagull Schools we offer high quality first school and childcare programs at affordable rates that meet the needs of working parents. We also provide adult day services at our Kapolei school that mutually benefit young children and older adults alike.

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[Collaborators](#)

Seagull Schools is a private, non-profit corporation that has been serving communities by developing and operating early education facilities since 1971. It is one of the state's largest childcare providers, serving approximately 900 children from mixed socio-economic backgrounds. The School's centers are located in Kailua, Ewa Beach, Ko Olina, Kapolei (2) and Honolulu, on the island of Oahu, and at the Mauna Lani Resort on the island of Hawaii. Seagull also operates a food service program, which prepares over 1,500 meals a day and an adult day service program from its Kapolei site where 50 disabled seniors and 240 children have the opportunity to interact with one another daily.



The Schools' child development programs are known for their exceptional ability to provide high quality care and early education at affordable rates that meet the needs of working parents. Besides having fees that are among the lowest in the State, Seagull Schools also provides generous financial aid to low-income families for tuition assistance. The organization has also emerged as a national leader in the rapidly expanding field of "intergenerational programs" where young children and older adults come together to develop relationships that mutually benefit both age groups. The mission of Seagull Schools is to provide early education programs of the highest value, which are responsive to Hawaii's diverse communities.

All of the Schools' early education programs are either fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) or are in preparation for accreditation. In 2002, the schools received the prestigious KOA award for "Excellence in Education" and in 2007, Seagull's executive director, Chuck Larson, received the KOA award for "Entrepreneur of the Year."

In 2011 Seagull Schools was selected as a "Best Place To Work" by Hawaii's Business Magazine and was also chosen to be a "Psychologically Healthy Workplace" by the Hawaii's Psychological Association.

Seagull Schools has an extensive history of collaboration that includes partnering with business, government, and other non-profit organizations. The organization has also taken a leadership role in coordinating efforts to effect policy through its active support or memberships in Good Beginnings Alliance, the Child Care Business Coalition, the Hawaii Intergenerational Network, Kokua Council, West Oahu Economic Development Association (WOEDA), and the NAEYC and HAEYC.

**KHIM'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO H.B. NO. 2276, HD 1**

Private Citizen, Attorney Charles K.Y. Khim, Esq. proposes that Section 2 of H.B. 2276, HD 1 be amended by providing that §302L- \_\_\_\_ (d) state as follows:

"(d) The office may contract with eligible providers, which may include private providers, of early education to increase the capacity of the early childhood education program to provide high-quality early childhood education to children across the state. Eligible providers shall incorporate quality standards in their programs as required by the early childhood education program pursuant to rules adopted by the office. The office may provide support to providers to incorporate these quality standards, including support related to teacher-child interactions, individual child assessments, and family engagement. Eligible providers shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to, section 103-55.

Attorney Khim also proposes that Section 3 of H.B. 2276, HD 1 be amended to state as follows:

Section 3. Section 102L-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding [two] three new definitions to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"Early childhood education program" means an education program for children provided for in section 302L.

"Family engagement" means practices that engage families in meaningful ways and recognize the need for families to actively support their child's learning and development, including classrooms that make families feel welcome, communication with families, the promotion of responsible parenting, and involvement in decisions that affect the families and their children.

"Voucher program for educational purposes" means any procedure, program or plan by which any direct or indirect payment of state funds or monies, be it by contract, grant, grant in aid, coupon, voucher or any other means, is made to eligible providers of early childhood education, including but not limited to private providers, for the providing of direct or indirect education of children, including but not limited to the education of three and/or four year old children. Examples of a "voucher program for educational purposes" include, but are not limited to, a procedure, program or plan by which:

state funds are conveyed to a private provider of early childhood education for the payment, in whole or in part, of the tuition or fee that is charged by that private provider of early childhood education to provide a child with education of any type; state funds are directly or indirectly conveyed to a private provider of early childhood education to pay, in whole or in part, the cost of providing a child with education of any type; state funds are directly or indirectly conveyed or given to a child for the child to give to a private provider of early childhood education in exchange for said provider to provide that child with education; state funds are directly or indirectly conveyed or given to the parent or guardian of a child, for the parent or guardian of the child to give to a private provider of early childhood education in exchange for said provider to provide that child with education of any type; the state directly or indirectly conveys or gives a coupon, writing or other instrument which entitles the child to obtain education from a private provider of early childhood education to a child, with the child then giving or redeeming the coupon, voucher, writing or other instrument to said provider of early education in order for the child to obtain an education of any type; the state directly or indirectly conveys or gives a coupon,



writing or other instrument which entitles the child to obtain education from a private provider of early childhood education to the parent or guardian of a child, with that parent or guardian then giving or redeeming the coupon, voucher, writing or other instrument to said provider of early education in order for the child to obtain an education of any type. In construing, interpreting and/or applying the lists of items or things in this definition, the doctrines of ejusdem generis and expressio unius est exclusio alterius shall not apply."

Attorney Khim finally proposes that a new Section 4 of H.B. 2276, HD 1 shall be added to state as follows:

Section 4. Section 103-55(c)(8), Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"(8) Contracts with nonprofit institutions which are not chapter 302L eligible providers of early childhood education."

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cjasco@gmail.com](mailto:cjasco@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:07:50 AM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Pasco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I write in opposition to HB2276 because we should NOT be amending the state constitution in order to move public money to private school at any level. I support mandatory kindergarten and I support early childhood education, but believe that the public funds for those programs should go to public schools. Teachers in public schools must meet the state's guidelines on being Highly Qualified. Are those same rigorous standards being met in private child care institutions? I'm sure there are a lot of highly qualified preschool teachers in private programs, but DOE public schools, ALL teachers must be highly qualified. Let's invest the money in providing quality education for four and five year olds in the public schools. Let's not tamper with the state constitution to create a short term solution for a long term problem. I urge you to vote NO on HB2276. Thank you.

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**From:** [Cynthia Luafalemana/KILOHANA/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Cynthia_Luafalemana/KILOHANA/HIDOF@notes.k12.hi.us)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed Early Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 11:54:33 AM

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I oppose this HB2276 Constitutional Amendment – Relating to Early Childhood Education

Read the bill, status of the bill, and other details about HB2276:

I believe the State of Hawaii and the Board of Education should put more money into the Junior Kindergarten and the Kindergarten Program rather than giving money to the private sector to supplement payment for preschool. Our public schools in the State of Hawaii are not getting the support from our Government because the hearts of our politicians are not support the DOE system.

I am a Kindergarten teacher with an Early Education Degree. I have taught preschool for 5 years before working for the Department of Education for the past 13 years. I have seen the need for students ages 4 thru 6 needing the extra services in Kindergarten so that they may have a successful learning experiences. However, Hawaii does not mandate Kindergarten and we have not had have the financial support to run a Junior-K and Kindergarten program, which is more needed than having these students stay in Preschool another year. It is such a catch-22 approach to our children's education. The standards are so different from Preschool to Kindergarten and I believe that our students may receive social, gross and fine motor skills, it still does not meet the Core Curriculum taught in Kindergarten.

Please turn this bill around and give this money back to the public school system so the DOE and the BOE can put our Junior Kindergarten back into our school. It will increase school enrollment and allow our children of Hawaii to receive an early start to a successful learning experience.

Support Junior Kindergarten and the Kindergarten Programs in the Department of Education rather than using our government monies to support private sectors in providing early education programs when our DOE schools can and have been doing it for the pass 60 years.

Mahalo and Aloha Ke Akua for allow our Na Keiki to become successful leaders in the future. Make the right choice veto this bill.

Mrs. Cynthia Luafalemana - Molokai, Mana'e resident - Mother of six - all six children attend a preschool program, all attended a public school, all graduated from college, and a Kindergarten teacher at Kilohana school.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mothdustz@gmail.com](mailto:mothdustz@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:02:42 PM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rob Harper-O'Connor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I don't want my taxes to fund religious schools that indoctrinate children with nonsense and employ uncertified teachers who don't measure up to the requirements of the public schools.

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**From:** [candg@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:candg@hawaii.rr.com)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** oppose state funded preschool  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:19:50 PM

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I oppose a state funded preschool - especially one which excludes private providers. The state cannot even fund the existing K-12 educational system it has. The schools are struggling with all sorts of un-funded mandates - like buying textbooks which address the mandated Common Core. Money was not given for these books last year, yet we are testing Common Core (the bridge) this year.

Several years ago the state took over the after school programs in the elementary schools. They put private providers out of business. Then they found that they couldn't handle it, raised and raised prices, and then gave it back to private providers. This pre-school venture sounds a lot the same.

There are government funded/subsidized preschools out there already, ie. Head Start.

When our existing public school system is properly funded, then perhaps I would agree to expand to pre-school.

Cathy Kaonohi  
Grade 6 teacher

**HB2276**

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
Christopher Ho	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

Mahalo Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Kidani for the opportunity to testify regarding HB2276. I'm writing in opposition to this bill. Allowing students the opportunity to enroll in an effective early childhood education program. In order for this to occur there must be standards set forth for these teachers. Currently, public school early childhood education teachers must be licensed and keep their skills sharpened and honed in order to teach our keiki at that level.

If we are going to create a program that supports and maintains an early childhood education program, yet not maintain and sustain a mandatory kindergarden program, are we not skipping a very important step necessary for the success of our keiki throughout the school system? Providing an early education for our keiki lays the foundation for them to be successful as they progress throughout the education system; however, this can only be done by licensed and qualified teachers who consistently work to better their teaching skills and practices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my testimony with you.

**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

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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](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dlokelani.han@gmail.com](mailto:dlokelani.han@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:23:03 AM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Davelyn Lokelani Han	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There is an amendment to HB2276. The amendment deletes “private providers” as the eligible providers. The amendment defined “eligible providers of early education” only means “charter schools,” “conversion charter schools” and/or “start-up charter schools,” as those terms are defined and utilized in chapter 302D. In other words, this amendment is placing charter schools as the public entity to be funded for pre schools. Please consider this amendment.

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**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [annieckcross@gmail.com](mailto:annieckcross@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Mar 12, 2014 15:00PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:18:36 PM

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**HB2276**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anne Cross	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in strong opposition to HB 2276. I strongly believe in early childhood education in the public schools. As a teacher I have made the commitment to my students to give them a quality education for the future of Hawaii. The early childhood education teachers at my school are qualified, educated, and the educators I want teaching my son. I believe in quality education taught by qualified and licensed teachers in every classroom. I believe in students having the proper tools, facilities, and guidance in order to be successful. I believe in parents knowing that their child is in a safe nurturing environment. I believe in standards of care where as a single unified school system, education should be under one umbrella and not done in the silo in which it is presently structured. With the elimination of Junior Kindergarten and the change in age for kindergarten admittance my school now has the facilities and teachers to begin a pre-school program.

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**From:** [kmossman@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kmossman@hawaiiantel.net)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Constitutional Amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 5:34:15 PM

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While I fully support early childhood education, it is critically important that it be done effectively. Current proposals look like vouchers to me.

- 1) Will the private preschools provide for the development of a comprehension, age/developmentally appropriate education to prepare students for Kindergarten?
- 2) If public money is used to "supplement" private preschool education, is there accountability for the public funds?
- 3) What are the protections for qualified teachers in pre-schools, not just care givers?
- 4) How do we protect from public moneys augmenting discriminatory hiring practices?
- 5) How do we ensure a separation from church and state in the educational curriculum, paid for with public funds?
- 6) Who controls the curricular decisions?
- 7) Is there truly capacity to address all the needs? If not shouldn't the capacity be built through a public early childhood system?

Let's invest in our keiki by providing for students Pre K- Higher Education through a comprehensive Public System.



**From:** [Steven Freitag](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Early Childhood Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 7:00:38 PM

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To Whom it may concern, As a public school teacher for the past 37 years, it disturbs me greatly that public money dedicated to schools is proposed to be used to fund a private pre-school programs. If we are going to fund pre-schools, we need to use public education monies in our schools, not contract out! First, however, we need to mandate Kindergarden as mandatory and then move to pre-school. Let's do this correctly! Sincerely, Teri Freitag, Eleele, Hi

**From:** [Kristi Miyamae](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Ito-Mizota, Kendra](#)  
**Subject:** HB2276 Constitutional Amendment - Relating to Early Childhood Education  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:57:34 PM

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To Whom it May Concern;

I am a public school teacher and I strongly oppose H.B. 2276, H.D. 1. I believe that the Constitutional Amendment takes public funds to pay for private education. I support public funding for all preschool students, but believe that the Department of Education should oversee the preschools. Education needs to have a continuum of expectations, guidelines and services. Quality education needs to be taught by highly qualified, licensed teachers. If early education is important as a foundation, legislation needs to address these issues in the bill and oppose it if it does not provide for these safeguards.

Currently our state does not recognize mandatory education for kindergartners. Isn't this where we should start first?

Let's make this right. The focus needs to be on kindergartners first.

I agree with HSTA's proposed amendment of Section 2 of H.B. 2276 which states:

“(d) The office may contract with eligible providers [,which may include private providers,] of early education to increase the capacity of early childhood education program to provide high-quality early childhood education to children across the state.

Eligible providers shall incorporate quality standards in their program pursuant to rules adopted by the office. The office may provide support to providers to incorporate these quality standards, including support related to teacher-child interactions, individual child assessments, and family engagement. Eligible providers shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws. As used in HRS, section 302L-\_\_, the terms “eligible providers of early education” and “eligible providers” only means “charter schools,” “conversion charter schools” and/or “start-up charter schools,” as those terms are defined and utilized in chapter 302D.’

I urge you to invest in our public schools. I ask you to value our efforts and experience as highly qualified, public school teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition and providing an amendment to H.B. 2276,H.D.1.

Sincerely,  
Kristi Miyamae  
1441 Hoohulu Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

**From:** [Michael Kline](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Hb2276  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:15:41 PM

---

As a Special Education preschool and kindergarten teacher, I oppose hb 2276, because it allows public monies to be used for private schools -- monies which should be used to strengthen public schools.

Michael Kline  
P.O. Box 1201  
Kilauea, HI. 96754  
808-651-9992

Sent from my iPad


March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

  
Robyn Kaneakua

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dayna Begonia", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dayna Begonia

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna R. Kranz', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Donna R Kranz

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ana Oishi".

Ana Oishi

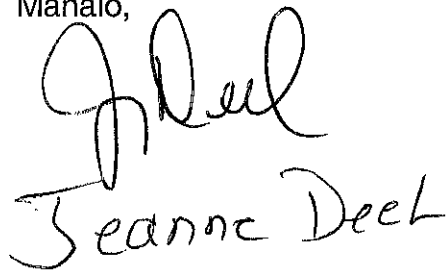
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Mahalo,



Jeannette Deek



March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

Liana Hironaka

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liana Hironaka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

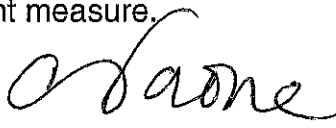
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Mahalo,

  
Christine Naone

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

 Cheryl-Lee Kekumu

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Mejia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheila Mejia  
P.O. Box 75550  
Kapolei, HI 96707

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,



Kasey Galariada

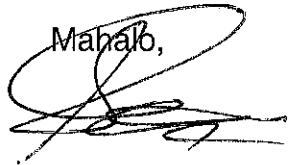
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Mahalo,



*Skydee Kalani-Canon*

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Dumlaog".

Patricia Dumlaog

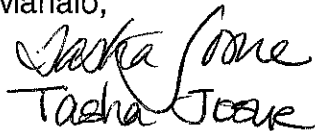
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Mahalo,

  
Tasha Joar



March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

*Keanu Camara*

*Keanu Camara*

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

Jean Boyers Reis


Jean Boyers Reis

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,  
  
Kamalei N. Pai

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

  
Irmagene Cooper

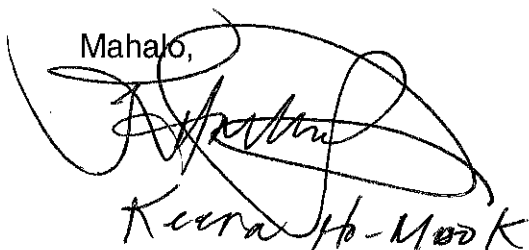
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keena Ho-Mook". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, sweeping loops. It is positioned below the word "Mahalo," and above the printed name "Keena Ho-Mook".

Keena Ho-Mook

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

  
Marcy Pula

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

  
Copper Lanson-Morrison



March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sadie Sellers".

SADIE SELLERS



March 10, 2014

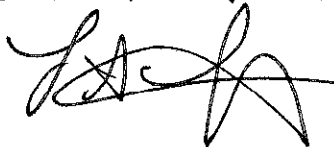
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Mahalo,

LORI A. LUSSIER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori A. Lussier", written in a cursive style.

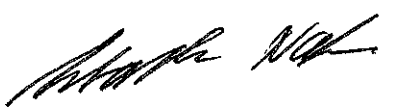
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Mahalo,

 Wade Nakai

March 10, 2014

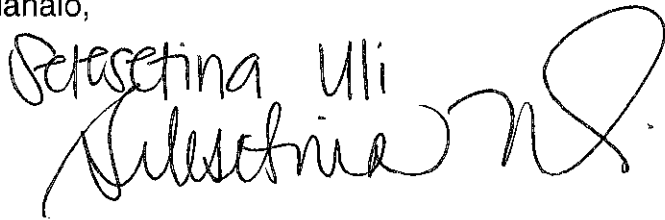
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Mahalo,

Peterson Uli  
Peterson Uli

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peterson Uli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

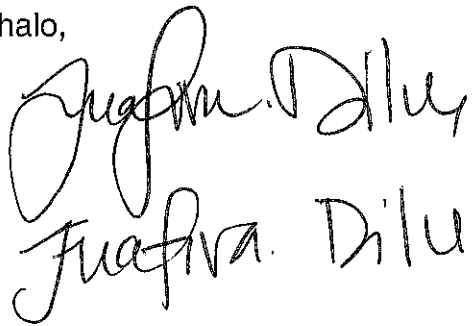
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Mahalo,

  
Juafira Dilu

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

*Wanda Malaga*

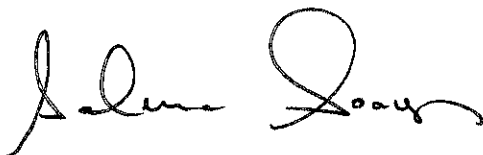
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Mahalo,



Salma Soaver.

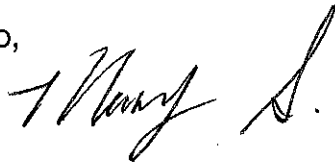
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Merry S.", written in a cursive style.

Merry Soares-Muagututia

March 10, 2014

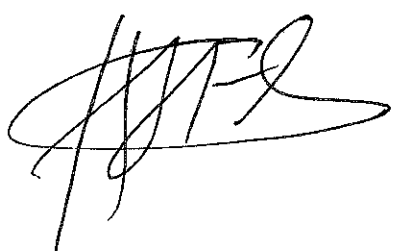
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Mahalo,

Honey Flores

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Honey Flores", written in a cursive style. The signature is located below the typed name.



March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Tom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "T".

Michelle Tom

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Cueva', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Cueva

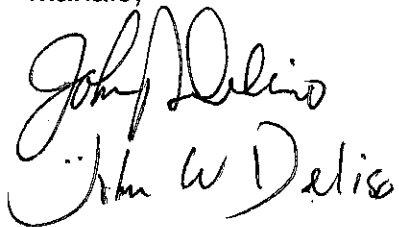
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Mahalo,



John W. Deliso

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Armond Kahawai', with a stylized, cursive script.

Armond Kahawai


March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,



OLIVIA VASQUEZ

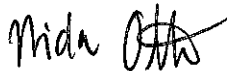
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nida Otto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Nida Otto

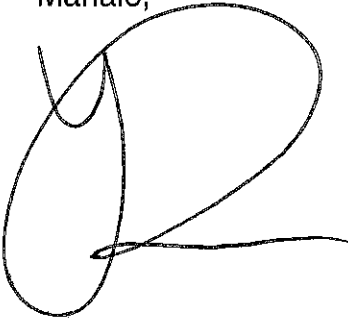
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lenson Ka'ala', written in a cursive style.

[Lenson Ka'ala]

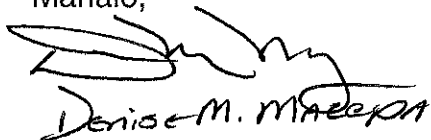
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Mahalo,



Denise M. Macepa



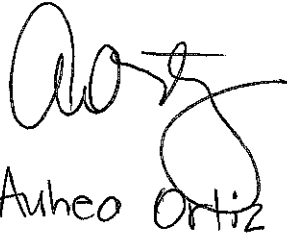
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Auhea Ortiz". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Auhea Ortiz

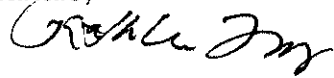
March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Fong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Kathleen Fong*

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chanel Cabrera', written in a cursive style.

Chanel Cabrera

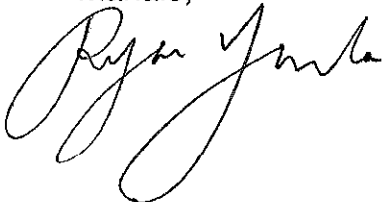
March 10, 2014

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I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,



Ryan Yoneda

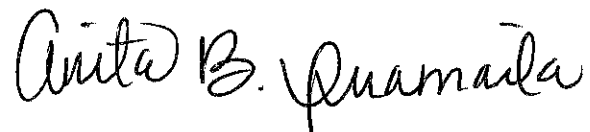
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita B. Fuamaila". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anita B. Fuamaila

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachelle Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RACHELLE GRAHAM

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

*Tarly Martin*

*Paul Martin*

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

  
Starlene Fabray



March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,



*Etamair Herbert*

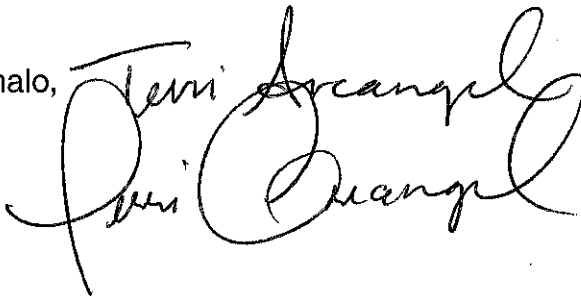
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Mahalo,



Terri Arcangel

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo, *Marylou Louis*  
*Marylou Louis*

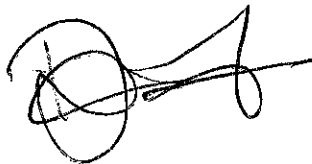
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Destine Fatu". The signature is stylized with a large, circular loop on the left side and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Destine Fatu

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

*BIRIKIJA JOSEPH*

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo, 

Patrice Ramos

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashland Aho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ASHLAND AHO

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,



Athleen West



March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

Donnamae Aho

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donnamae Aho".


March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,



Shadley Cambra


March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

  
Kylie Kanui


March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,



CYNTHIA HIGASHI

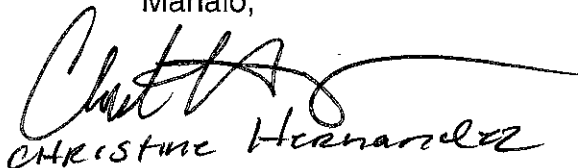
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Mahalo,



CHRISTINE HERNANDEZ

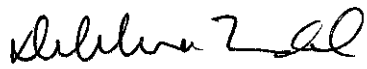
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Mahalo,

  
81-960 Hana St  
Waiānana, HI 96792  
808-389-8854

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,

*Nani Akeo*

*Danni P. Akeo*

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,

*Kelly Tejada*  
KELLY Tejada

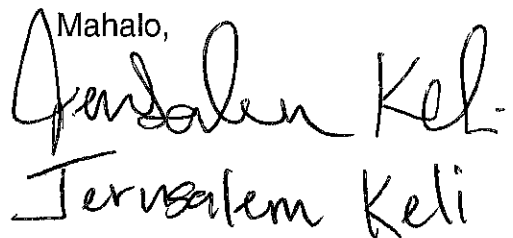


March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,  
  
Jernsalem Keli

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo, *Geraldine Bossy*  
Geraldine Bossy

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

Valeria Bossy  
Valeria Bossy

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

Kayleen Michael

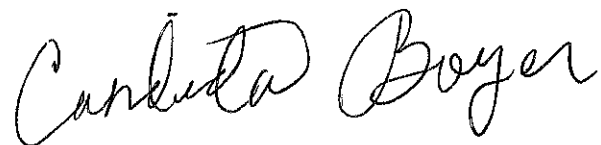
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candida Boyer". The script is fluid and cursive.

Candida Boyer

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

Roderick Thomas Boyer  
Roderick Thomas Boyer

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Manuwa I Lai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "I".

Manuwa I Lai


March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,



Miriam DeBruin



March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo, *Sania Lanfij*  
*Sania Lanfij*

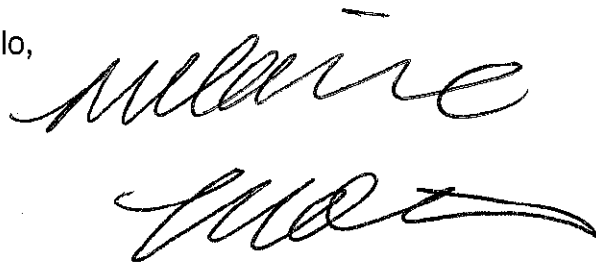
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melanie Molina". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Mahalo,".

Melanie  
Molina

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo, *See ago*  
*we ago*

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chelsea Heale". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,

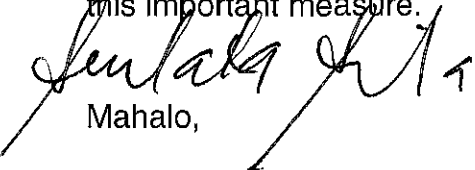
  
Martha Barnard

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

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Mahalo,

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mell Carmel".A second handwritten signature in cursive script, identical to the one above, reading "Mell Carmel".

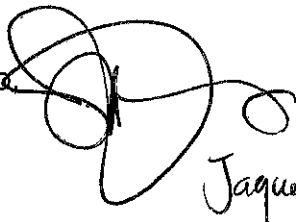
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Mahalo,



Jaquane Hernandez.



March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RJ' with a stylized flourish.

RJ. James

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo,  John Neelec

March 10, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

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Mahalo, *Anjodi Bolten*  
*Anjodi Bolten*

March 10, 2014

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I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

*Naomi Patterson*  
Naomi Patterson  
~~Patterson~~

March 10, 2014

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I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

*Dmy Naeve*  
*@rly Naeve*

March 10, 2014

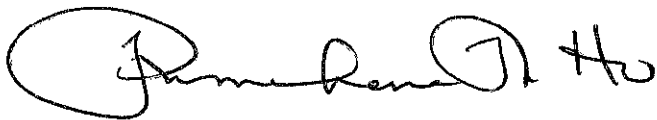
Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of **HB2276**.

I believe this bill will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. I strongly believe in the power of Early Childhood Education to set our keiki on a trajectory for success. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of this important measure.

Mahalo,

Pumehana M. Ho

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pumehana M. Ho". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a stylized "H".

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Kwok". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kwok".

Michelle Kwok

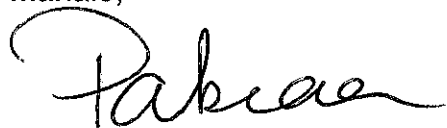
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pomaikai Akiona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Pomaikai Akiona



March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugene Takamoto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

EUGENE "BLUE" TAKAMOTO

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

Julie Crossman  
Julie Crossman

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

*Amanda Sue Mahuka*

*Amanda-Sue Mahuka*

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

*Jessie Kamakura*  
Jessie Kamakura

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

*Dawn Somera*  
Dawn Somera

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Desiree Kekauoha". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Desiree Kekauoha

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

  
Jennifer-Marie P Lemalu


March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,



Anolene'a Clemente



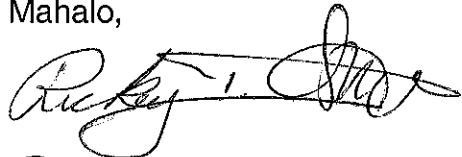
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rickey I. Oshiro". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Rickey I. Oshiro

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,



Ashlyn Wakai

March 10, 2014

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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherree-Lynn Sakai', written in a cursive style.

SHEREE-LYNN SAKAI

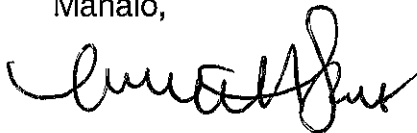
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manisa How-Rosete', written in a cursive style.

MANISA HOW-ROSETE

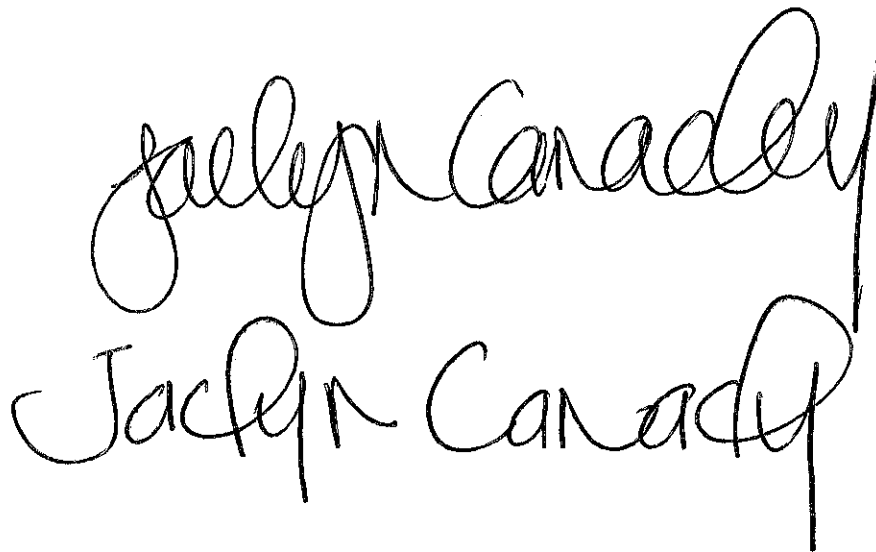
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Mahalo,



Jacklyn Canady

Jacklyn Canady

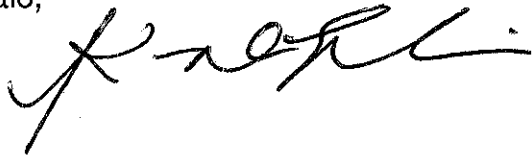
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Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kayia Ehia', written in a cursive style.

Kayia Ehia

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 Paho, 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.