



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING  
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD  
DIRECTOR

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

House Committee on Education  
February 5, 2014  
2:00 p.m., Room 309

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

Good afternoon. I am GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning. EOEL is in support of House Bill 2276. This is an Administration measure.

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 the Executive Office on Early Learning (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.

EOEL respectfully requests that you move this bill forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



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

**Date:** 02/05/2014

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** HB 2276 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.

**Department's Position:**

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

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

Wednesday, February 05, 2014; 2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

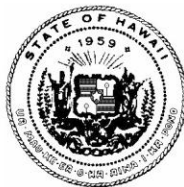
Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) is in **support** of HB 2276, 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 HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 5, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 2276 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 5, 2014; 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1) Positive teacher-child interactions;
- 2) Use of individual child assessments for ongoing instructional planning based upon all areas of childhood development and learning, including cognitive,

linguistic, social, and emotional approaches to learning and health and physical development;

3) Family engagement; and

4) Curricula alignment with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards which align with Department of Education's Common Core State Standards, State Content and Performance Standards, and General Learner Outcomes for grades kindergarten to twelve.

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

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



Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 5, 2014 at 2:00 pm  
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.  
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

HB 2276: Relating to Early Childhood Education.

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

HB 2276 establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Hawaii P-20 strongly supports this bill. As an organization that works in partnership with the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Hawaii Department of Education and the University of Hawaii, Hawaii P-20 works to improve the educational pipeline and facilitates seamless educational experiences across systems. The research has shown that investing in early childhood education, especially that which is of high-quality and is developmentally appropriate, leads to better educational, social and economic outcomes. It is not enough to provide childcare or babysitting services for young children; they need appropriate educational preparation to be successful in the next stage of education: elementary school.

As proposed, the Early Childhood Education Program will be essential to deliver high-quality education to young children who were previously unable to afford access to pre-kindergarten educational services. And, when children are not ready to learn by kindergarten, their chances at elementary, secondary and post-secondary success and completion are greatly diminished. Since studies predict that 65% of jobs in Hawaii in year 2018 will require at least some post-secondary education, Hawaii must prepare its children for success by investing in them early.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.





**Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

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

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2276 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, February 5, 2014  
2:00 PM  
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

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

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

My name is Robert Witt, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS is in strong support of HB 2276** which will create a much-needed early childhood program in our state. 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.

Should the Constitutional Amendment pass during the 2014 election, HB 2276 will allow the Office of Early Learning to proceed with the development of a comprehensive early childhood system using public-private partnerships to build upon already-existing high-quality non-profit child care centers. 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.

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.



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

House of Representatives  
Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309

House Bill 2276- Relating to Early Childhood Education

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) **supports** HB 2276. 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

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



**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

Testimony in support of:  
HB 1676 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools and  
HB2276 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program

House Committee on Education  
Feb 5, 2014  
2:00 pm, Conf. Rm 309

Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and members of the Education Committee

I am in strong support of HB 1676 and HB 2276.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School located on the island of Molokai recognizes the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our community of Molokai does not yet have the capacity to serve all of these children, and it is therefore imperative that we make available all public resources, including charter schools, to provide high quality preschool services.

As the Principal of a public conversion charter school, serving many high-risk children and families, Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School is poised to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

For five years now, Kualapu'u PCS has operated a preschool classroom serving 20 low-income children who have successfully matriculated to our Kindergarten program. Unfortunately funding for this preschool will end this year, exacerbating the blow of the loss of our Jr.K. program. With funding from the EOEL, Kualapu'u would therefore make available a least 1 preschool classroom(s) to ensure continuation of quality early education services to our keiki.

In addition to working with the EOEL to ensure preschool services for the keiki at our charter school (HB1676), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that builds capacity through private sector partnerships (HB2276). 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

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

this happen. We therefore support HB2276, as it ensures that contracted providers meet high quality early education standards that research has demonstrated safeguards children's learning and success.

In addition to my support, although I was unable to attach to this testimony, we have at least 6 support letters and at least 170 signatures of individual parent and community members who support the continuing of Kualapu'u's Pre-Kindergarten program. We hope HB 1676 with consequent appropriations, would enable Kualapuu PCCS to continue our PreKindergarten program.

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



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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony presented before the  
House Committee on Education  
February 5, 2014 at 2:00 pm  
By Dr. Joanne Itano  
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
University of Hawai'i System

### HB 2276 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the House Committee on Education:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 4, 2014

TO: Chair Roy Takumi  
Vice-Chair Takashi Ohno  
Members of the House Committee on Education

FROM: Deborah Zysman  
Good Beginnings Alliance

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

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports HB2276**, which would implement a statewide early childhood education program upon the ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution. 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 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. For example, neurological studies have shown that over 85% of a child's brain is developed by the age of five. However, data shows 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 years, Hawaii still remains one of only 11 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 educational opportunities for our four-year-olds, we help save our DOE system, and its teachers, time and money.

Passage of HB2276 would provide a blueprint to guide Hawaii 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, as well as those that exist in some Department of Education schools. This proposal is the most cost effective, financially practical delivery system that our state can provide at this time.

This bill also ensures that Hawaii will be able to compete for federal funds specifically for early learning programs, including the \$250 million new state preschool competitive grant program included in the recent bipartisan appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed by President Obama.

Most importantly, this bill provides hope to the thousands of lower and middle-income families across Hawaii that 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 \$760 per

month. This bill helps demonstrate our state's commitment to finally making early learning a reality and affordable to more families.

GBA strongly supports the passage of HB2276 and the equitable access to a high-quality statewide community-based early learning system that Hawaii's keiki desperately deserve.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance



**INPEACE- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture****TESTIMONY****HBs 2276, 14 & 1676****RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, LEARNING and KINDERGARTEN**

Testimony Presented Before Committee on Education  
 February 4, 2014, in Conference Room 414 @ 1:30 pm  
 by Dr. Kanoe Nāone, Chief Executive Officer, INPEACE

**INPEACE, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, supports HB2276, 14 & 1676.**

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.

As a Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) provider, INPEACE **supports HB 2276** 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. As an FCIL provider, we understand the value of early childhood education in providing vital and culturally responsive services to some of the state's highest need populations. We are able to achieve success via FCILs by empowering families with the knowledge they need in order to support their children throughout school and life. Collectively, there are 6 organizations who are a part of 'Eleu (an early childhood consortium) and collectively we annually serve more than 25,000 children and their families statewide. Our FCILs are strategically placed in underserved areas where there are high concentrations of Native Hawaiians and minority populations. As a result, these families have access to **FREE &** high quality early childhood education, a critical need in at-risk areas. FCILs are an established setting within the early learning system. We humbly ask for state support to send a clear message to all that the state is willing to diversify the early learning options based on family need and choice!

We **support HB 1676** 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.

We **support HB14** because it establishes transition to kindergarten as a mandate of the early learning system. We support this bill because it encourages collaboration & alignment between the early learning system and the HIDOE.

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 FCIL programs making it a viable option for school readiness.

Testimony in support of:

HB1676 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools,

HB2276 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program and

House Committee on Education

Feb 5, 2014

2:00 pm, Conf. Rm. 309

Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and members of the Education Committee

I am in support of HB1676 and HB2276, as they increase the state's capacity to provide quality early learning services to Hawaii's young children.

I am the Project Director of an early childhood education project in Wai`anae serving high-risk children and families, many of whom will have no feasible alternative, once the children are no longer eligible for Kindergarten.

Let me therefore state that I am *not* in agreement with the legislature's 2004 decision (ACT 219) to raise the age of entry into Kindergarten, which has been the stimulus behind consequent efforts to provide both Jr.K and now Pre-K to serve the so called "late born" children.

I do support a state funded Early Childhood Education program, *but only in addition to serving the existing 5100 late borns, not at the expense of eliminating Kindergarten services to these children.* The research simply does not back up the assumptions made in 2004, that late born children make for "un-equitable" comparisons between Hawaii's students and other states on achievement tests in their later years. Studies show that developmental K programs such as Jr.K, or retaining K students for two years, or redshirting / delaying K entry, were not beneficial.

With that said, I do recognize the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. The state clearly does not yet have the capacity to serve *all* of these children, and it is therefore imperative that we harness all public and private resources including charter schools, to provide high quality preschool services.

Though I support enlisting the private sector to increase the state's provider capacity, I am concerned that they be held to the same state and federal civil rights laws, that are currently applicable to public schools. I would not support private sector programs that could not accommodate disabled children, children of different religious faiths and gender identities, or who overtly or covertly promote a particular religious orientation.

Maintaining the public kindergarten entry age at December 31, will ensure that all children receive fair and appropriate programming, that safeguards their civil rights.

I would recommend that until the public and private early learning system has the capacity to serve *all* 4 year old children, without displacing the younger three or two year old cohorts currently served in the private system, that the state maintain the current K entry age of December 31 and gradually move up the entry age, as it simultaneously builds the capacity of public and private mixed delivery early learning system.

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

Gale Flynn,  
Ho`okahua Early Childhood Education Project Director



Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Relating To House Bill 2276  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Members of the House Committee on Education,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports HB2276 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 they begin kindergarten.

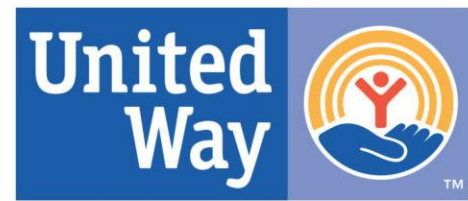
As the bill clearly states in Section 1, the intention is not to create a voucher system, which the Democratic Party of Hawaii does not support. Rather, it is important for EOEL to be able to partner with private providers in order to meet the needs of over 17,000 children as they prepare for kindergarten.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

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

## Aloha United Way

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



**Aloha United Way**

## Cover Sheet

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

### **House Committee on Education**

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2:00 P.M.**

**Conference Room 309**

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

## Aloha United Way

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



February 3, 2014

House Committee on Education  
Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

Re: HB 2276 Relating to Early Childhood Education - SUPPORT

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Kim Gennaula  
President & Chief Executive Officer



# Ho`okāko`o Corporation

Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Education

Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

**Testimony in support of:  
HB 2276 – Relating to Early Childhood Education and HB 1676**

Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and members of the Education Committee:

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

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

As the Executive Director of three public conversion 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.

In addition to working with the EOEL to ensure preschool services for the keiki at our charter schools (HB1676), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that builds capacity through private sector partnerships (HB2276). 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 therefore support HB2276, as it ensures that contracted providers meet high quality early education standards that research has demonstrated safeguards children's learning and success.

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

Sincerely,

Megan McCorriston  
Executive Director



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2014

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 309  
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB2276, 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.



841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

February 5, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi Vice Chair Ohno, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB2276, 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

Kupu A'e

\*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Our Public School

\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

\*Parents and Children Together

\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members (\*)



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[www.kcaapreschools.org](http://www.kcaapreschools.org)

February 4, 2014

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

From: Christina Cox, President  
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii

Subject: HB 2276 Relating to Early Childhood Education

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 by the Woman's Board of Missions to serve the children of immigrant workers. We serve over 900 children per year in 7 NAEYC accredited preschools on Oahu. More than 50% of our students are low-income and over 80% go on to attend DOE elementary schools. We manage tuition subsidies from 7 different sources, each with its own set of requirements. We have a \$7 million annual operating budget with 130 employees. This past year, KCAA completed the construction of Hawaii's first professional development center for early educators at a cost of \$3.2 million. It is located on our Mother Rice campus in Moiliili. The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Early Education and Development was funded exclusively by private businesses and Hawaii's dedicated philanthropic community. KCAA's Board was instrumental in this effort and is committed to working with the State, the DOE, UH and Chaminade University as well as the early education community to increase the number of qualified teachers, to improve their practice and to improve outcomes for Hawaii's *keiki*.

**Please note that while I presently serve as the center-based program provider representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board and also serve as the Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii which represents more than 90 centers throughout the State I am testifying in support of the intent of this measure today as the President of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a position that I have held for the past 13 years.**

There has never been more research to document the rate of return on investment made by states than there is today. *Bloomberg Businessweek* published an article in the January 16, 2014 edition citing the findings of James Heckman, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago and 2000 Nobel Laureate in Economics: *The bottom line: Heckman calculates that early education spending yields an annual lifetime "return to society" of up to 10%. The earlier a child gets help, the better the results through each stage of education.* I have included the article for your reference.

ATHERTON - KAILUA

KUAPA - HAWAII KAI

LAURA MORGAN - KAPALAMA HEIGHTS

MOTHER RICE - MOILIILI

MURIEL - KAKAOKO

NA LEI - KALIHI

WAI-KAHALA - KAHALA



- Early experiences have a decisive impact on the actual architecture of the brain and on the nature and extent of adult capacities.
- By the time children from middle-income families are in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade they know about 12,000 words compared to low income children who know just 4,000 words, one third as many as their peers. This gap begins in the early years and research has repeatedly confirmed that early education makes all the difference in school success.

While clearly all children benefit from a high quality early learning experience, a report issued this past September from the Brookings Institution makes the following observations:

*Expanding access to preschool programs, as advocated in President Obama's "Preschool for All" initiative, would have positive effects on the preschool enrollment of all 4-year olds, but if access is free regardless of income, it could lead many children to switch out of the private system and into the public program. This "crowd-out" should be an important consideration as states would have to decide on the level of cost-sharing for middle-class families.* The study also found that the children from lower-income families had the most significant academic gains. Hawaii should take heed of these findings as we move forward, working to leverage State dollars and existing community resources.

The recently approved 2014 Omnibus Budget includes additional funding for low-income children in multiple forms; of most interest are the "Pre-K Development Grants" which will be jointly administered by the DOE and HHS. As one of the last states to develop a state-funded prek program Hawaii is referred to as a **remedial State**, a special category was created for us! We should embrace this as an opportunity to move forward.

Hawaii should use the fact that we are one of the last states to adopt a state-funded pre-k program to our benefit. **We have learned from other states that those that have developed mixed delivery systems that prioritize limited tax payer dollars to support preschool access for low-income children and that both blend and braid federal and state dollars to support the development of higher quality programs are those that truly improve educational outcomes for low-income children!**

The philanthropic community has a history of supporting both public and private education in Hawaii. It is poised to support the State's efforts to create a high quality mixed-delivery system, one that works in partnership with the DOE. We all have something to bring to the table and we are confident that together we can build capacity and strengthen our future workforce.

While it is true that the need to pass a Constitutional amendment adds a layer of complexity to this effort, I believe that it can be done and that this bill is a good first step.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-01-16/the-heckman-equation-early-childhood-education-benefits-all>

# The Heckman Equation: Early Childhood Education Benefits All

By Brendan Greeley January 16, 2014

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“Boy, Jim, sounds like you’ve really turned into a social democrat.” This is what James Heckman remembers Lawrence Summers telling him one day in the early 1990s as they sat in Summers’s office in Washington. Heckman, an economist at the University of Chicago, was laying out his ideas about economic development to Summers, then a Treasury under secretary. Poor families should have guaranteed access to education for their 3- and 4-year-olds, Heckman said. He wasn’t advocating socialism, he told Summers, just the opposite: He was fixing a market failure.

Heckman won a Nobel prize in 2000. He used his speech in Stockholm to underscore the importance of using hard, observable data in making public policy, and he’s continued to gather evidence for the idea he explained to Summers. Focused, personal attention paid to the young children of poor families isn’t some warm, fuzzy notion, he argues. It’s a hard-nosed investment that pays off in lower social welfare costs, decreased crime rates, and increased tax revenue. And he has the numbers to prove it. He calls this the Heckman Equation, and shares it relentlessly in public lectures around the country and the world. “The argument is not just an appeal to the poor,” he says. “We’re saving money for everyone, including the taxpaying middle class and upper class. Right now they’re supporting prisons, health, special education in schools. The benefit is broadly shared. ... It’s something that would actually accrue to the whole country.”

Saving money, or at least justifying spending it, is now a requirement in Congress and state capitols, and Heckman’s advocacy is winning the support of politicians in both parties. Last year the White House pointed to his work in its budget proposal for early education grants to states. On Dec. 13, congressional negotiators put \$250 million for new early education funding into its omnibus spending bill. And President Obama is expected to make the issue a priority in his upcoming State of the Union speech.

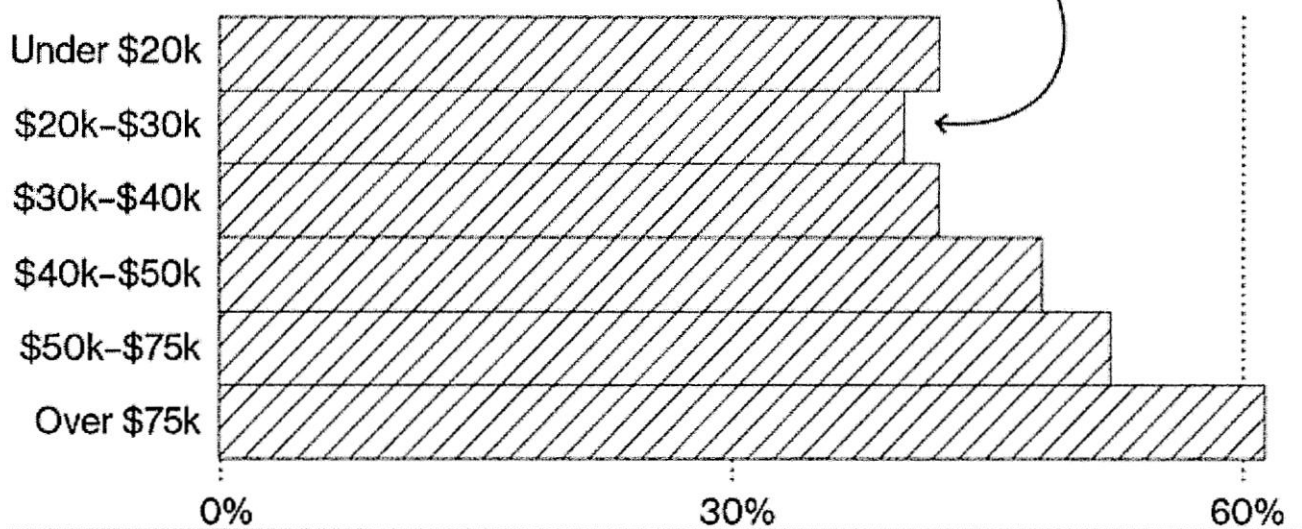
The states are way ahead of Obama. Fifteen governors, more Republicans than Democrats, included new money for early childhood education in their budgets in 2013. In all, states are now spending \$400 million more on pre-K than before the economic downturn. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who meets with Heckman often, says much of this activity can be credited to Heckman’s work. “You have this Nobel prize-winning economist and not some soft-hearted someone like me,” says Duncan. “It’s incredibly powerful.”

scroll down for p 2

## Preschool Participation

2012 enrollment of 3- and 4-year-olds in U.S. preschools, by parents' income

Parents with incomes too low to afford private preschool but not low enough to qualify for aid



GRAPHIC BY BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK; DATA: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Heckman grounds his argument in two long-term studies, one begun in the 1960s in Ypsilanti, Mich., and another a decade later in Chapel Hill, N.C. Both provided free preschool to children from lower-income families. In the decades since, researchers have been given periodic access to those children, now adults. At age 40, the subjects from the Ypsilanti study were far more likely than their peers to have graduated from high school and have jobs. They were more likely to own homes and less likely to have needed social services. The boys were more likely to have grown up to raise their own children and less likely ever to have been arrested. Children from the program in Chapel Hill had higher test scores than their peers through adolescence and were more likely to have gone to college. Both studies are well-known to education researchers. Heckman put them under the gimlet eye of a microeconomist.

In 2010 he and several co-authors produced what he called the “first rigorous cost-benefit study” of the Ypsilanti program. The free instruction cost \$17,759 per child per year in 2006 dollars (the year they began working with the data). Heckman set out to find out what taxpayers got for that money. He calculated what the program had saved the state and federal government in social welfare, what it had paid out in increased tax revenue from higher wages, and, most significantly, what it had saved in police, court, and prison costs. The initial investment provided what Heckman calls a “return to society” at an annual rate of 7 percent to 10 percent. Put another way, each dollar spent at age 4 is worth between \$60 and \$300 by age 65. “For my Republican friends, that’s a language they respect,” says Duncan.

At this month’s conference of the American Economic Association, Heckman presented a new reason for government to provide this benefit. The data show that the earlier a child gets help, the better the results through each stage of education. Yet younger parents are on the whole more credit-constrained than older ones. So at the time they ought to be putting their kids into early education programs, they don’t have the money or credit to pay for it. Economists call this an imperfect credit market. “The accident of birth is a huge, huge imperfection,” says Heckman.

Early education has political appeal because it not only benefits society but it more than pays for itself. “It’s not just redistribution,” says Harvard University economist David Deming, who shares data with Heckman and agrees broadly with his findings. “If there are people who disagree with Jim Heckman,” he says, it’s because they doubt that “one experiment with 100 kids in Ypsilanti gives you the information you need.” Heckman concedes the early studies are showing their age. But more recent research on programs from other states “has one major flaw—no long-term follow-up,” he says. “I’m not going to argue that those things might not work, but we can’t argue yet that they have.”

It’s also not clear whether spending on middle-class children yields the same return as it does for poor kids. “A lot of this eye-popping benefit comes from crime reduction,” says Deming, and children from better-off families are less likely to commit crimes with or without early education. Heckman agrees. For that reason he stops short of endorsing universal pre-K. As a matter of politics, though, any education program must include the middle class. “Reality is, if you target a program at the very poor, it’s hard to build political support,” says Duncan.

Heckman’s research doesn’t lead him to endorse any single early education proposal. “The idea of a uniform curriculum is insane,” he says.

“There’s this notion of objective public policy. Everyone signs off, and governors give away fountain pens,” he says, but each state has different needs. Regardless of the curriculum a state adopts, the long-term savings his research promises come from providing intense, parenting-style attention to the children who can most benefit from it. “The most successful programs,” he says, “would mirror what’s going on in the most successful families.”

*The bottom line: Heckman calculates that early education spending yields an annual lifetime “return to society” of up to 10 percent.*



Greeley is a staff writer for *Bloomberg Businessweek* in New York.

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Hawai'i's Enrichment & Education Professionals  
*A Non-Profit Organization*

Thank you for allowing Kama`aina Kids to submit testimony on this very important bill supporting early childhood education. We appreciate the opportunity. Kama`aina Kids is one of the largest not for profit providers of early childhood services in the state of Hawaii. The company operates 19 preschools, 4 First to Work sites 67 A+ locations and a variety of other community services. The company educates and cares for approximately 10,000 each day.

We applaud HB2276 and see this bill as a step forward in providing access to early childhood programs for children. There are still a few questions or clarifications upon which we ask that you focus. These were previously submitted in our testimony for SB2826. We encourage you to have a well thought out process for regulating those environments which do not fall under an existing regulatory body.

We are encouraged with the wording which incorporates the environments for early learning for children housed in a variety of arenas. Children learn best when they are comfortable and receptive to their environment. Not all children learn the same and a multi mixed environment will serve the children of Hawai`i best.

All of this hinges on the passing of the constitutional amendment which would allow state funds to go toward private education. 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 of Cindy McMillan  
The Pacific Resource Partnership

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

HB 2276 - Relating to Early Learning  
HB 1676 – Relating to Early Childhood Education  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
2:00 PM  
Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and members of the committee,

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

PRP supports HB 2276, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS, and HB 1676, which authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

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

Now, we need your help once again with the passage of HB 2276. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed.

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



## HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chairman  
The Honorable Takashi Ohno, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee on Education  
House of Representatives  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chairman Takumi & Members of the Committee on Education:

### **HB2276 – HB 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



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

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

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: House Committee on Education  
**Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 309**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support** of HB2276, which establishes the Early Childhood Education program. PHOCUSED is a statewide coalition of health, housing, and human services organizations committed to strengthening policies and programs that benefit the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii.

Education can provide a leveling of socio-economic impacts experienced by children from low-income families. These families are dealing with the challenges of Hawaii's high cost of living realities and are focused on providing the necessities, like food and housing. As a result children from low-income families are less likely to have the "extra" resources necessary to access high quality early childhood education programs. As studies have clearly shown, investing in a high-quality early childhood education will result in higher levels of educational attainment and stronger social and economic well-being. A strong start with early education provides a bridge to a different future for these children.

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

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



**Testimony to the House Committee on Education**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014**

**2:00 p.m.**

**Conference Room 309**

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

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, 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, 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

February 3, 2014  
Hearing on Wednesday, February 5,, 2014 at 2 p.m.  
House Education, Finance Committee  
House Conference Room 309  
In support of HB2276

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 relating to early childhood education, establishing the Early Child Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes because it will establish a statewide early childhood education program.

We have a plethora of research that demonstrates the benefit quality early learning experiences have on young children, including:

- How quality early learning experiences provide children with the social, emotional, physical and academic skills they need for kindergarten, as well as life long learning.
- 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 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. In today's economy no bank, savings and loan or high interest bearing CD will provide that kind of return on investment. Investing in young children up front is a sound investment in Hawaii's future.
- Family involvement is at its highest when children are young, that is, during the formative "preschool" years. Research documents that there is a direct

correlation between family involvement and educational success. By making quality early learning experiences more readily available and affordable, we increase familial involvement and increase the educational success of the children in these families.

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to send both of my daughters to a NAEYC Accredited preschool when they were three & four years old. My daughters are now in Kindergarten & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and I can see the social, emotional, educational benefits of the quality early learning they received prior to their start in elementary school.

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. When we invest in the creation of an early learning program, we invest in Hawai'i's future.

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.



February 3, 2014  
Hearing on Wednesday, February 5,, 2014 at 2 p.m.  
House Education, Finance Committee  
House Conference Room 309  
In support of HB2276

To Whom It May Concern:

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

I am writing this testimony to ask for your support of HB2276 relating to early childhood education, establishing the Early Child Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes because it will establish a statewide early childhood education program.

We have a plethora of research that demonstrates the benefit quality early learning experiences have on young children, including:

- Assisting children with the skills and attitudes needed to be successful in school and in life. Quality early learning provides children with the social, emotional, physical and academic skills they need for kindergarten, as well as life long learning.
- Research that documents that there is a correlation between family involvement and educational success. Family involvement is at its highest when children are young, that is, during the formative “preschool” years. By making quality early learning experiences more readily available and affordable, we increase familial involvement and increase the educational success of the children in these families.

- 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 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.

Because screening is a vital component to child development and school readiness, in addition to all of the items outlined in HB2276, **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.

If we want to invest in Hawai'i's future, we need to invest in the future of our keiki. That investment needs to take place now with the school readiness program as detailed in HB2276. 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.

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
by

Donald B. Young  
Personal Testimony

HB 2276 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and Members of the Committee on Education

My name is Donald Young. I am the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and co-chair your Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC).

On behalf of the College of Education, I support HB 2276. We have long anticipated the State commitment to improving early learning opportunities for our children and within the College we have shifted internal resources to be ready to meet the increase in workforce demands. We have increased the number of our tenure track faculty with expertise in early childhood education, building capacity to better prepare teachers who are ready to provide age-appropriate early childhood education. We have created new programs to prepare early learning teachers and leaders.

In 2013, the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee prepared a position statement relevant to HB 2276. The TECC members, representing the following education organizations, unanimously support this position statement.

Hawai'i State Department of Education  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education  
University of Hawai'i West Oahu Division of Education  
University of Hawai'i Hilo Department of Education  
University of Hawai'i Hilo Kahuawaiola Indigenous Teacher Education  
University of Hawai'i Honolulu Community College Early Childhood Education  
University of Hawai'i Leeward Community College AAT Program  
Brigham Young University School of Education  
Chaminade University Education Division  
Hawai'i Pacific University School of Education  
Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board  
Teach for America  
University of Phoenix College of Education  
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education

The position statement follows.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**TEACHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TECC)  
POSITION STATEMENT ON  
COMMITTING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

It is time for the State of Hawai‘i to commit funding for early childhood education. Hawai‘i is one of only 11 states without state-funded preschool. Yet the research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. A recent study in Hawai‘i found that every \$1 invested in early education returns \$4.20 in future social program savings. We have spent years studying the issues. We know what the right thing to do is. Now is the time to do it.

The newly established Executive Office of Early Learning in the Governor’s Office is recommending a course for early learning that is revolutionary. The proposed Early Learning Program has a developmentally appropriate focus on the whole child, bringing education, social services, and health together to increase child success. Unlike older children or adults, young children need comprehensive, multi-dimensional services that exist on a continuum—from birth to at least 8 years of age—so that they can accomplish the tasks of development and learning important in the early years and are fully prepared for further learning in elementary, middle and high schools, postsecondary education and beyond.

The TECC supports the overarching principles of the proposed program. Affordable access to high quality early learning programs must be available to all children, regardless of socio-economic status, race or geographic location. Families must be engaged in the learning of their keiki and participate in the financing of the program; the plan must embrace public and private providers.

Research has shown that young children achieve better learning outcomes when they have teachers and caregivers with specialized preparation and on-going professional development in early childhood education. The TECC is committed to supporting the preparation, professional development, credentialing and licensing of early childhood professionals in a state-supported preschool system. We firmly believe that standards for professionals should remain high and that every child deserves a high-quality early learning setting. TECC members have programs in place and the capacity to address emerging State needs as the Legislature and institutions commit to universal early childhood education. Moreover, we support the Program’s plan to provide joint professional development and assistance to early childhood providers and educators in this public-private partnership.

We all need to pull together and support early education for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki. We ask that this year’s legislature support early childhood education by funding preschool for all four-year-olds beginning in 2014.

\*\*\*\*\*

About the TECC

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee (TECC) is a statewide advisory committee created in HRS 304A-1202. Its membership consists of representatives of every institution of higher education that prepares teachers for the State’s schools, the Hawai‘i Department of Education, and the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board. In its monthly meeting, the TECC identifies, studies, acts, and makes recommendations on matters of education of common interest to the Hawai‘i State Department of Education.

**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 03, 2014 11:26 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** jkeoho@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM\*

**HB2276**

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jarrett Keohokalole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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**ohno2-Rexie**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:41 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM\*

**HB2276**

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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Testimony To  
The House of Representatives Committee on Education  
Wednesday, February 5, 2014  
2:00 pm  
Conference Room 309  
Hawai'i State Capitol

Re: HB 2276 – Relating to Early Childhood Education Program

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice-chair Ohno 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, 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.

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.

Robert G. Peters, EdD





TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2276, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

RE: HB 2276 Relating to Early Childhood Education

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 2:00PM  
House conference room 309

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. Children and families should have access to 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

## ohno2-Rexie

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**From:** Cami Nihipali <nihipaliohana@hawaiiantel.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 6:08 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition of HB1676 and HB2276

Cami Nihipali from Ewa Beach, HI writes:

Please do not pass these bills. Starting school isn't about best practices for our kids. Our children do not need to be forced into school earlier. Our children need their childhood. We should take a look at Finland's education practice (a nation ranking at the top in educational performance) of children starting school at 7 (when they are developmentally ready). I am an educator and have been for 15 years. This isn't in the best interest of our children.

-----  
Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): nihipaliohana@hawaiiantel.net

First Name: Cami

Last Name: Nihipali

City: Ewa Beach  
State: HI  
ZIP Code: 96706

**Form Letter for HB1676 and HB2276**

**Please see attached document for full list of individuals who submitted this form letter**

**Dear Chair Takumi and Vice-Chair Ohno, I am writing in support of HB1676, which authorizes the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms; and HB2276, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS. Last year, you 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 contracts with our local non-profit preschools and our public school system. Now, we need your help once again and pass HB2276. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed. Please support HB1676 and HB2276, and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!**

## HB1676 and HB2276 Form Letter List

1	Diane Arconado	48	Terri Arcangal	95	Auhea Ortiz
2	Suzanne Kashiwaeda	49	Michael Gillespy	96	Kathleen Fong
3	Shaley DeGiorgio	50	Donnamae Aho	97	June Aquino
4	Dan Gardner	51	Destine Fatu	98	Ryan Yoneda
5	Lisa Shigemura	52	Arseni Manas	99	Cheri Richards
6	Sharon Tsai	53	Kasey Galarisada	100	GM Kanani Stern
7	Ann Marten	54	Jeanne Deel	101	Julie Kawasaki
8	Lani Robinson	55	Jenny Nakamura	102	Jessie Kamakura
9	Maureen Langberg	56	David Taichini	103	Jamie Goya
10	Arthur Bein	57	Jerrazzaylyn Paisi	104	Donna Kranz
11	Flo Nishimoto	58	Chandra Chinaka	105	Anna Oishi
12	Gail Mukaihata Hanneman	59	Michelle Moore	106	Nida Otto
13	Hermina Booysen	60	Breanna Stevens	107	Jaclyn Canady
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15	Patty Paranada	62	Danalynn Millan	109	Julie Crossman
16	Melani Padgett	63	Mitchell Montayre Jr	110	Dayna Begonia
17	Arlene Tendo	64	Tanya Tehotu	111	Janice Duarosan
18	Kay Lipps	65	Lambert Panui	112	Chanel Cabrera
19	Gale McNish	66	Falenpolu Toa	113	Dawn Somera
20	Marsha Jones	67	Christine Alvarez	114	Armond Kahawai
21	Annette Ammasi	68	Kaniela Hecky-Kamaka	115	Olivia Vasquez
22	Kiana Shiroma	69	Talosaga Leaeno	116	Maria Cueva
23	Renee Espiau	70	Brieyn Ortiz-Ramos	117	John Deliso
24	Marya Mann	71	Shela Mejia	118	Lenson Ka'aloa
25	Shannon Yarber	72	Laura Pitolo	119	Melani Molina
26	Kahealani Travis	73	Courtney Nohoikau	120	Herbert Langidrik
27	Theresa Rockafellow	74	Joy Lawson	121	Aljina Kaious
28	Maureen Schaeffer	75	Anjodi Bolten	122	Makno Taehuo
29	Catherine Medeiros	76	Seulata Sila	123	Christine Hernandez
30	Robin Dickson	77	Martha Bannard	124	Tina Rogers
31	Christine Katayama	78	Jonathan Koehlmoos	125	Patrice Ramos
32	Audrey Kido	79	Jacob Iosefa	126	Honey Flores
33	Mitchell Kido	80	Tyrone Olophy	127	Eleanor Trinidad
34	Tracy Ruggiero	81	Mister SOS	128	Clarissa Tote
35	Jin Chang	82	Tarla Martin	129	Sheyanne Ah Nee
36	Alfred Castle	83	Christine Naone	130	Merry Soares-Muagututia
37	Misty Carver	84	Testiny Maido	131	Jayet Lynne Gomes
38	Ku'ulani Keohokalole	85	Jaquanna Hernandez	132	Salena Soares
39	Lisa Kimura	86	Mell Carmel	133	Lynn Wilson
40	Ana Diaz	87	Takako Shariry	134	Danielle Burgart
41	Casey Kealoha	88	Shann Kanuha	135	Rachel Donahue
42	Jane Best	89	Virgil Samuela	136	Mark Ebert
43	Daniel Goya	90	Sheree-Lynn Sakai	137	Kim Acierto
44	Tammy Ruiz	91	Maria Ercira Eulsadio-Abis	138	Jackie Dudock
45	Malia Hosino	92	Jennifer Marie Lemalu	139	Leona Watson
46	Teresa Vast	93	Michelle Kwok	140	Cindy Jakubczak
47	Kehau Kaleiohi	94	Eugene Takamoto	141	



**LATE**

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

RE: H.B. 2276 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) strongly **opposes H.B. 2276** relating to the implementation upon its ratification, the amendment to Article X, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter school teachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA believes that the Constitutional Amendment is clearly an education voucher in which it takes public funds to pay for private education. We support public funding for all preschool students. The Department of Education should have the oversight for preschools in public settings.

HSTA strongly believes in early childhood education in the public schools. As educators, we made the commitment to our children to give them the best type of quality education for the future of Hawaii. Our early childhood education teachers are highly recognized, educated, and some of the best in the nation.

We believe in quality education taught by qualified and licensed teachers in every classroom.

We believe in students having the proper tools, facilities, and guidance in order to be successful.

We believe in parents knowing that their child is in a safe nurturing environment.

We 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.

Contrary to what this bill states, private schools are a choice and the state should be working towards ensuring that we strive towards educating children under one system.

President Obama spoke of the need for high quality preschools for four year olds during his state of the state address. We honor his statement. However, unlike other states, Hawaii does not recognize the need to ensure that five years olds are properly educated. It is our kuleana to secure that our kindergarteners come first.

A great teacher can be a game changer, and a great teacher can help change student's lives for the future. We disagree with the justification in the bill that states, "the future will be grim for this population of children, especially if left without the opportunity for early childhood education."

The reality is that the future of Hawaii will be grim if our students and parents cannot get jobs, cannot afford to live in Hawaii, raise their family, and be fiscally responsible to the economy.

The bill states, "middle school level teachers shared that they can tell which students in their classrooms have and have not gone to preschool." Public school teachers in Hawaii can also identify those students in elementary and high school as well. These teachers work with many different children of all levels and all abilities. Some students enter into school having many years of preschool but by middle school, may find themselves struggling with algebra and other subjects. It is certainly easier for some students to do well in school. Some students have the ability to concentrate, some students have the ability to retain information for long periods of time, and some of the ability to apply what they have learned. These are important abilities and skills for our students to be successful in school.

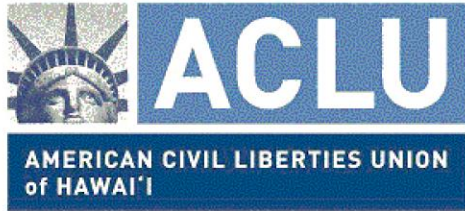
There are elements in this bill that are missing studies about what happens when a child is taught by a non-highly qualified teacher. The Department of Education requires all teachers who teach Junior Kindergarten to be licensed, have credentials such as a degree, and ongoing training and professional development. These are the same for the four and a half-year olds entering schools and the legislature is legislating a double standard.

The Department of Human Services has not set up any rules to determine its criteria for the roll out of its program Open Doors. Right now it is a closed door to all of the students who could be attending preschool. It is not clear who will be accountable to ensure what and how this plan will work.

If early childhood education was a priority, then schools should have mandatory kindergarten in our compulsory attendance laws before a new project is started.

We urge you to invest in our public school as they are underfunded and value our existing schools by keeping tax dollars to serve all children in public schools.

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



**LATE**

Committee: Committee on Education  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Room 309  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii with Comments on HB 2276 (Relating to Early Childhood Education)

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee on Education:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii (“ACLU of Hawaii”) offers comments on HB 2276, 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 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 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 include language to direct 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)

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 18, after line 22) (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 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 Takumi and Members of the Committee on  
Education  
February 5, 2014  
Page 3 of 3

- Insert new subsection (h) (page 20, line 8) (and renumber accordingly):

The office shall, no later than December 31, 2015, adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to chapter 91, 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,

Daniel Gluck  
Senior Staff Attorney  
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)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:29 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** brichards@pidfoundation.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2276 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM



**HB2276**

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for EDN on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B. Richards	Partners In Development Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chairman Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno, and Members of this House Committee on Education, Partners In Development Foundation strongly supports the intent of this legislation. As providers of preschool early education services (as opposed to day-care) to at-risk Native-Hawaiian families within our communities, we have experienced first-hand the positive effect that this resource has made in their lives. In addition, providing early education services to homeless communities has helped us to develop a repoire of trust, that allows 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. It is more than just about Early Education. In some cases it is also about family stability. Please vote favorably for HB 2276. Mahalo Nui, Billy Richards Director of Communications Partners In Development Foundation

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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TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 2276, RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION

TO: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Education

**LATE**

RE: HB 2276 Relating to Early Childhood Education

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, February 05, 2014, 2:00 PM  
House Conference Room 309

My name is Christine Keanu. I am a concerned citizen and mother of two young children (ages 3 and 5 months). I am submitting testimony today regarding HB 2276, which would implement a statewide early childhood education program upon the ratification of the amendment to Article X, Section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution. As a mother of two young children, I am in complete support of this bill moving forward and being passed into law.

With the changes to the age in which a child is able to enter Kindergarten and roughly 5100 of Hawaii's children being affected in the 2014-2015 school year I find it essential to provide our keiki with other opportunities to access early childhood education. Research has shown the long-term positive effects of investing in high-quality, early learning programs. Providing children with an opportunity to access quality early childhood education will prepare them for success within the educational system.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my complete support of HB 2276 and the necessity of this bill being passed into law.

Christine Keanu  
ctakimot@hawaii.edu