



REVISED

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

February 20, 2014



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2234, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS FROM CHILD
CARE LICENSING**

Hearing: Thursday, February 20, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to repeal the child care licensing exemption for child care programs licensed by the Hawaii Council of Private Schools.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill as long as the appropriation language remains.

If the licensing exemption is repealed, the DHS will require additional funds and positions to sufficiently and effectively maintain the monitoring and oversight of the child care licensing programs, including conducting suitability assessments and background checks. The estimated resources necessary to carry out the purpose of S.B. 2234, S.D. 1, would require 8 full time Child Care Social Workers and related operating expenses, totaling \$543,685 per year (\$424,170 general funds and \$119,515 federal funds.) This includes salaries, fringe, and operating costs.

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



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
S.B. 2234 S.D. 1, Relating to Exemptions from Child Care Licensing
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 20, 2014
9:00 a.m., Room 211

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

The Executive Office on Early Learning supports this bill. Our position reflects the Department of Human Services' support of this measure to repeal the exemption allowed for child care programs licensed by the Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS), with additional resources for the Department to license child care programs.

We believe DHS will ensure that standards for health and safety will be upheld.

It is our understanding that DHS has not yet approved HCPS licensing standards since the exemption was first approved pursuant to Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Therefore, DHS continues to license preschools that belong to the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools.

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

LATE



1806 South King Street, Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | Ph: (808) 942-4708 | haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

From: Katherine Murphy, Executive Director
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

RE: Senate Bill 2234, SD1 – Relating to exemptions from child care licensing.

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee. Hawaii'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) **strongly supports** SB 2234, SD1.

This bill will help assure that all children in early childhood programs serving children up to kindergarten entry are meeting Department of Human Services licensing standards, which are minimum health and safety standards set by the state. High quality programs start by meeting licensing standards. It's the first step to quality. HAEYC also supports the appropriation assuring that there is enough licensing staff in DHS to provide timely visits and adequate monitoring.

HAEYC is advocating for high quality programs/schools being ready for all children (which includes well-prepared, adequately compensated teachers), addressing the whole child (which includes physical and mental health as well as the child's family), and mixed delivery systems to provide a variety of programs that will meet the variety of needs. Some families have the resources to provide stimulating, healthy experiences for their young children. Others need varying levels of assistance to do this.

We acknowledge 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Katherine E. Murphy
Executive Director
HAEYC