



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support of**
S.B. 2236 S.D. 1, Relating to Early Learning
By GG Weisenfeld, Director
-AMENDED-

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 19, 2014
9:25 a.m., Room 211

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

The Executive Office on Early Learning is in support of Senate Bill 2236, Senate Draft 1.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools to use available classrooms for public preschool classrooms statewide.

EOEL requests that \$4,470,208 be appropriated for this purpose to be used in FY2015 for the 2014-2015 school year. This will provide an additional 640 four-year-old children with access to preschool.

An additional amount of \$854,920 would be needed to serve 100 four-year-old children in five charter school classrooms.

Partnering with the Department of Education is an important part of the early learning system that EOEL is charged with developing pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012. Our objective is to increase the number of four-year-olds who will have the opportunity for a prekindergarten experience.

To prepare as many four-year-olds for kindergarten as possible, it is important to use and expand the already-existing mixed-delivery system. EOEL's approach is to support such a

mixed-delivery system, which includes private, community-based preschools; Head Start programs; family child care homes; special education prekindergarten classrooms; family-child interaction learning programs; and DOE-EOEL prekindergarten programs.

All of these options are funded through a variety of funding streams, including federal, parent (which make up the highest percentage), private foundation (such as Kamehameha Schools), special education, and state funds.

This session, EOEL is seeking funds for the school year beginning August 2014 for:

- Family-child interaction learning programs (\$1 million for 400 children*);
- The DOE-EOEL Prekindergarten Program (\$5,225,128 for 740 children*); and
- The Charter School-EOEL Prekindergarten Program (\$854,920 for 100 children*).

*Free- and reduced-price meal eligible – a family of four could qualify if its income is at or below \$50,117.

The proposed DOE-EOEL program will have the following characteristics:

- Operates within the DOE structure
 - 32 classrooms at 30 schools statewide (list attached)
 - Schools identified using the following criteria: Title I status, rural location or limited preschool choices, existing preschool with Race to the Top or other federal funding support that is ending, and principal support
 - Staffed by HSTA/DOE teachers and HGEA assistants
- Serves 640 children (those eligible for free- and reduced-price meals)
- EOEL will offer professional development support

Each component of our budget request for the DOE-EOEL program is linked to building a quality prekindergarten program. Prekindergarten experiences must be of high quality to make a difference in outcomes for children. The greatest line item in our budget is for staff (80.4%). We will require highly qualified teachers who have early childhood experience. To meet the recommended teacher-child ratio and optimal classroom size for children's learning as identified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, two teachers are needed per classroom. They will be DOE employees who will also need to meet the DOE licensing and educational requirements. However, to ensure high quality is implemented, we have identified five key elements that must be incorporated within the program:

- **Ongoing professional development.** Research has shown that the most successful method for creating high-quality teachers is systematic, ongoing professional development. That is why we will contract for services (\$80,000) that will coordinate targeted professional development workshops for the participating school principals and teachers on topics such as child development, use of individual child formative

assessments, effective family engagement techniques, and curriculum. For teachers to participate in the required monthly workshops, substitute pay (\$102,400) and travel for neighbor island staff to participate in biannual seminars (\$7,200) has been included.

- **Mentoring.** What improves teaching and learning most substantially is the use of in-class mentoring or coaching. Resource teachers will be hired within each of the 10 DOE districts to mentor teachers and support principals in understanding the nuances of implementing a prekindergarten program on their campuses (\$900,000).
- **Focus on Child Outcomes.** To ensure children are learning and progressing in their growth and development, the curriculum implemented in the program must be aligned with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS). HELDS are research-based standards that identify the expectations of knowledge and behavior for children from birth through kindergarten entry. They are a set of expected knowledge and behaviors categorized into five “domains” or areas based on the National Education Goals Panel framework: Physical Well-being, Health, and Motor Development; Social and Emotional Development; Approaches to Learning; Cognition and General Knowledge; and Language and Literacy. To measure a child’s progress in these domains, the teachers will be required to conduct ongoing formative assessments on each child (\$6,400).
- **Program Assessment.** To evaluate the quality of teacher-child interactions, EOEL would use one of several tools available to provide direct feedback to the teachers as well as to the resource teachers so they can support the classroom teachers. The indicators that would be collected biannually include: the climate of the environment and emotional support provided to the students; classroom organization including the use of materials and behavior management; and instructional support that is occurring, such as concept development and language modeling (\$6,400).
- **Environment.** To establish a high-quality program, an appropriate environment must be created. 26 of the 32 classrooms would need equipment (\$624,000). All of the 32 classrooms would need consumable materials for the children to use, such as writing materials and paper (\$48,800).

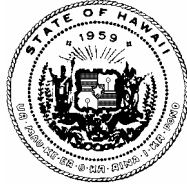
EOEL recommends an amendment to the bill on page 2, line 12: “...enter into **contracts**...” (to be consistent with the language on page 1, line 10)

Testimony of the Executive Office on Early Learning – S.B. 2236 S.D. 1
February 19, 2014
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EOEL respectfully asks that the committee move this bill forward. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. I am happy to provide you with any additional information you may need.



#	School	Principal	Island	Complex Area Superintendent
1	Kahaluu Elementary	Naomi Matsuzaki	Oahu	Lea Albert
2	Waiahole Elementary	Wendy Matsuzaki	Oahu	Lea Albert
3	Hauula Elementary	Samuel Izumi	Oahu	Lea Albert
4	Linapuni Elementary	Cindy Sunahara	Oahu	Calvin Nomiyama
5	Hana High & Elementary	Richard Paul	Maui	Lindsay Ball
6	Lanai High & Elementary	Elton Kinoshita	Lanai	Lindsay Ball
7	Kaunakakai Elementary	Janice Espiritu	Molokai	Lindsay Ball
8	Honokaa Elementary	Rory Souza	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
9	Honaunau Elementary	Noreen Kunitomo	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
10	Hookena Elementary	Joyce K. Crisafi	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
11	Konawaena Elementary	Claire Yoshida	Hawaii	Arthur Souza
12	Keolu Elementary	Gay Kong	Oahu	Suzanne Mulcahy
13	Kailua Elementary	Lanelle Hibbs	Oahu	Suzanne Mulcahy
14	Kaiulani Elementary	Rodney Moriwake	Oahu	Ruth Silberstein
15	Likelike Elementary	Kelly Bart	Oahu	Ruth Silberstein
16	Eleele Elementary	Fred Rose	Kauai	William Arakaki
17	Kekaha Elementary	Jason Yoshida	Kauai	William Arakaki
18	Kau High & Pahala Elementary	Sharon Beck	Hawaii	Mary Correa
19	Naalehu Elementary	Darlene Javar	Hawaii	Mary Correa
20	Keaau Elementary	Chad Farias	Hawaii	Mary Correa
21	Mountain View Elementary	Barbara Riley	Hawaii	Mary Correa
22	Keonepoko Elementary	Kathleen Romero	Hawaii	Mary Correa
23	Pahoa Elementary	Michelle Payne-Arakaki	Hawaii	Mary Correa
24	Waialua Elementary	Scott Moore	Oahu	John Brummel
25	Nanaikapono Elementary	Debra Knight	Oahu	Ann Mahi
26	Nanakuli Elementary	Lisa Ann Higa	Oahu	Ann Mahi
27	Leihoku Elementary	Randall Miura	Oahu	Ann Mahi
28	Maili Elementary	Disa Hauge	Oahu	Ann Mahi
29	Makaha Elementary	Lynn Okamura	Oahu	Ann Mahi
30	Waianae Elementary	Wendy Takahashi	Oahu	Ann Mahi



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

February 19, 2014

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Barbara Yamashita, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2236, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 19, 2014; 9:25 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 2236, S.D. 1, is to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools for use of available classrooms as public preschool classrooms and to require the EOEL to contract with no less than five charter schools for the use of available classrooms for public preschool classrooms through June 30, 2019.

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

Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established the existing child care assistance program, called Preschool Open Doors, as the statewide school readiness program to be administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program serves low- to moderate-income families whose late-born children are affected by the change in kindergarten entry age

in the 2014-2015 school year or whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.

However, there are communities throughout the State which do not have preschools available to which families could send their children, even if the families are eligible for the POD program. Therefore, the POD program would not benefit families for whom community-based preschools are not available.

Therefore, the ability of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) and charter schools for use of available classrooms and an appropriation for such agreements would benefit families in communities where community-based preschools are not available.

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

Personal Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 19, 2014, 9:25 am
by
Donald B. Young

SB 2236 SD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

My name is Donald Young. I am the Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

On behalf of the College of Education, I support SB 2236 SD1, 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.

The research is clear that laying a strong foundation for our youth through high quality preschool programs will result in productive and capable citizens. Part of that commitment is securing accessible, safe, and appropriate learning spaces for young children to learn and interact. SB 2236 SD1 provides a pathway for doing so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 19, 2014

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways & Means
February 19, 2014
9:25 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Re: SB 2236, SD 1 Relating to Early Learning

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

The Early Learning Advisory Board supports SB 2236, SD 1 which would authorize the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of available classrooms as public preschool classrooms. It also requires the executive office on early learning to contract with no less than five charter schools for the use of available classrooms for public preschool classrooms through June 30, 2019 and makes an appropriation.

Established under Act 178 (2012), the Early Learning Advisory Board replaced the Early Learning Council and is responsible for advising the Executive Office on Early Learning, providing recommendations to the Executive Office on Early Learning, promoting collaboration among state agencies, and being an independent voice for the overall well-being of Hawaii's children.

Hawai'i has been a national leader in ensuring access to quality health care, family support and community based models that improve the lives of young children. The Early Learning Advisory Board seeks to ensure that all children are valued, safe, healthy and ready to succeed. The board has adopted a comprehensive action strategy to achieve its goals. We strongly support advancing this bill and look forward to working collaboratively and proactively with the legislature and the broader community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Robert Peters
Chair, Early Learning Advisory Board



Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 19, 2014 at 9:25 am
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

SB 2236, SD1: Relating to Early Learning.

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

SB 2236, SD1 authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Hawaii Department of Education and charter schools for use of available classrooms as public preschool classrooms.

Hawaii P-20 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. Expanding high quality early learning opportunities to more children is crucial in preparing them to be successful in K-12 and higher education.

The Executive Office on Early Learning is proposing an ambitious but realistic plan to introduce a developmentally-appropriate prekindergarten program at the Hawaii Department of Education that would serve children for whom there is little high-quality opportunities for early learning in the private sector. The need is great for these children and their families, and this plan would be an essential first step to provide the proper preparation for lifelong success.

With the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce predicting that 65% of jobs in Hawaii needing higher education, we need to act now in order to prepare our keiki to be ready for K-12 education, and then higher education. Without this preparation, their chances to be successful in education are diminished.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2236 on Feb 19, 2014 09:25AM
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2014 9:40:27 AM

SB2236

Submitted on: 2/15/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred Castle	Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation	Support	Yes

Comments: Because Hawaii needs to provide high quality early education for all our citizens who want it and especially because we need to serve our at-risk keiki, our Foundation supports high quality early education within the DOE as well as within the private sector. We would be prepared to financially support training or retraining of DOE teachers to assist them in providing top-quality early education in the DOE. Most states have already moved to create state systems of early education and the USDOE is providing limited financial support to promote school readiness. Hawaii should have done this many years ago. Let us move forward on this in 2014.

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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Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, February 19, 2014
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211

SB 2236, SD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee. Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) supports the intent of SB 2236, SD1.

The spaces considered for programs for 4 year olds should be safe and appropriate for the age group. State department of human services regulations provide the minimum health and safety regulations for the age group and should be considered.

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.



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

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

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 9:25 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211

Testimony in Support of SB2236 SD1, Relating to Early Learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB2236 SD1, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. 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.

Once again, PHOCUSED supports SB2236 SD1 and the efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively to expand preschool options to more of Hawaii's children. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

TO: Honorable David Ige, Chair
Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2014

TIME: 9:25 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 2236, SD1, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2236, SD1, relating to early learning. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of authorizing 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. This bill also makes an appropriation.

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 Hawai'i's pre-kindergarten children.

Testimony to
The Senate Ways & Means Committee

Wednesday, February 19, 2014
9:25 am

Conference Room 221
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Senate Bill 2236, SD1, Relating to Early Learning

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

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a retired head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 2236, SD1, Rrelating to early learning.

I am offering this testimony in support of authorizing the executive office on early learning to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for the use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. This bill makes an appropriation.

You are all probably quite familiar with the research that demonstrates the value of early learning for all children and the benefits that derive therefrom. Equally important is being able to provide the environment necessary to support quality early learning. Since the State DOE has underutilized facilities and a public program will require adequate space and capacity for conducting quality programs, I strongly urge you to support this bill including its appropriation to ensure that facilities will be available to serve our *keiki*.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, EdD

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

Jessica Valdez
BSW, Hawaii Pacific University

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Support for S.B. No. 2236, S.D. 1, Relating to Early Learning

I am a BSW student attending Hawaii Pacific University. I am testifying in favor of S.B. No. 2236, S.D. 1, Relating to Early Learning, which would authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools to use available classrooms for public preschool classes.

Attending preschool has shown to give children a better learning foundation for elementary school and beyond, setting them up for higher educational attainment and socioeconomic wellbeing in the future. However, the limited number of affordable preschool options available in Hawaii makes it difficult for many low-income families to make this investment. Creating greater access for these families to give their children a stronger early educational foundation would increase their children's positive learning growth and social development.

This expansion of preschool options for the state of Hawaii is a worthwhile investment for our families' social wellbeing. I urge the committee to pass S.B. No. 2236, S.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this measure.