

SB2236

Relating to Early Learning
EDU, WAM



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

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

Senate Committee on Education
January 29, 2014
1:30 p.m., Room 414

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

Good afternoon. I am GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning. EOEL is in support of Senate Bill 2236.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education and charter schools to use vacant or underutilized 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.

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.

To understand where we are today and where we want to go in 2014, it is important to know the following:

This November, there will be a question on the ballot that will ask voters whether public funds can be used to fund private, community-based preschools. If voters approve, the State will be allowed to fund quality preschool experiences at private, community-based preschools such as those operated by KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, Kama'aina Kids, and

Seagull Schools. While we await the outcome of the vote, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is requesting additional resources to increase the number of four-year-olds who will be able to access preschool in August 2014.

There will be an increased number of four-year-olds – about 5,100 – who need a preschool experience but are too young to go to kindergarten due to the change in kindergarten entry age that takes effect the 2014-2015 school year.

Last year, the Legislature funded the Preschool Open Doors program (\$6 million to the Department of Human Services), which covers 1,200 of the 5,100 children at private, community-based preschools. However, with over 17,000 four-year-olds in Hawaii, many more families want access to quality preschools.

The Hawaii Department of Education has identified 32 classrooms at 30 public schools that can operate a prekindergarten program. Some of these schools already have prekindergarten programs using funding sources that will be ending. The supplemental budget request for \$4.5 million will be able to support access to prekindergarten experiences for 640 free- and reduced-price meal eligible children.

The supplemental budget request also asks for \$1 million for EOEL to contract with family-child interaction learning programs (where a parent attends with their child) to increase the number of four-year-olds – about 400 – who will benefit from this learning opportunity.

The purpose of all of these programs is to increase the number of four-year-olds (1040) who will have the opportunity for a prekindergarten experience.

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

EOEL requests that the following amendments be made to further clarify the program:

Page 1, lines 8-10:

“... to use vacant or underutilized classrooms or classrooms currently being used for preschool for public preschool classrooms statewide.”

Page 1, line 11:

“... The office shall only enter into contracts or memorandums of agreement ...”

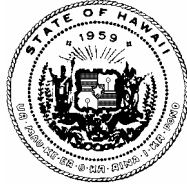
Page 2, line 9:

“... vacant or underutilized classrooms or classrooms currently being used for preschool for use as public preschool classrooms.”

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



#	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

January 29, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

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

Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2014; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize 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 to make an appropriation for such agreements.

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 and that the program will be administered by the Department of Human Services.

The Preschool Open Doors (POD) program will serve 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.

There are, however, 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 vacant or underutilized 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.



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

Date: 01/29/2014

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2236 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: 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. Makes an appropriation.

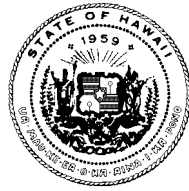
Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 2236. 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.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

DR. MEGAN McCORRISTON
HO'OKAKO'O CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII
Kamaile Academy PCS
85-180 Ala Akau Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

TOM HUTTON
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EMMA WEISS
PRINCIPAL

January 27, 2014

Testimony in support of:

SB 2326 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools and

SB2826 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program

Senate Committee on Education

January 29, 2014

1:30 pm, Conf Rm 414

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

I am in strong support of SB2326 and SB 2826.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Kamaile Academy recognizes the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our community of Waianae 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, Kamaile Academy is poised to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

With the loss of Jr.K at Kamaile Academy PCS, 40 high-risk late born children will be left without an option for preschool services, as there are few providers in our area that families can afford. With funding from the EOEL, Kamaile Academy would therefore make available two preschool classrooms to ensure continuity of early childhood education services to these late born children.

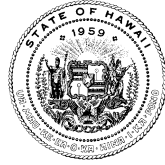
In addition to working with the EOEL to ensure preschool services for the keiki at our charter school (SB 2326), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that builds capacity through private sector

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

partnerships (SB2826). 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 SB2826, 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.

Emma Weiss, Principal
Kamaile Academy



**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:
SB 2236 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools and
SB2826 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program

Senate Committee on Education
January 29, 2014
1:30 pm, Conf Rm 414

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

I am in strong support of SB2236 and SB 2826.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School recognizes the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our community of Moloka'i 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 Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School, serving many high-risk children and families, Kualapu'u is ready to work with the EOEL in their efforts to increase the state's capacity to offer early childhood education services.

In fact, for five years, 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 at least one preschool classroom(s) to ensure continuation of quality early education services to our keiki. If needed, we may be able to provide 2 classroom especially during 2014-2015 of the kindergarten transition year.

In addition to working with the EOEL to ensure preschool services for the keiki at our charter school (SB 2236), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that

builds capacity through private sector partnerships (SB2826). 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 SB2826, 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.

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



Wednesday, January 29, 2014
1:30 PM
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 2236 – Relating to Early Learning

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

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

HAIS is in support of SB 2236 as this is one of the first and necessary steps needed to proceed with the establishment of a statewide early learning system to enhance school readiness. 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.

The passage of this bill is particularly important because it will target the children of our most at-risk families; those who are most likely to enter kindergarten without the necessary foundational skills for learning and those who are unable to pay for a preschool education.

State subsidy programs such as Preschool Open Doors help families to supplement payments to existing private preschool providers, however for many families the co-payment is still unreasonably high and a preschool education is unattainable.

It makes sound fiscal sense to utilize vacant and underutilized public and charter school classrooms and to create additional jobs within the public school system.

Regardless of the outcome of the Constitutional Amendment vote at the next election, the state can, and should, proceed with the development of the public preschool infrastructure in order to accommodate the increased number of children who are ineligible to attend kindergarten during school year 2014-2015 due to the change in entry age requirements.

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



January 28, 2014

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

FROM: Deborah Zysman
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for SB2236**: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports SB2236**, 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. GBA strongly supports efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively in this way to expand preschool options to more of Hawaii's children – with an emphasis on at-risk children.

SB2236 provides EOEL with the statutory authority to act in executing its mission to ensure that Hawaii's four-year-olds have the quality early learning experiences they need to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

GBA is in support of **SB2236** and thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,
Deborah Zysman
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance



Ho`okāko`o Corporation

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2236 – Relating to Early Learning

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

I am in strong support of SB2236.

With the ending of Kindergarten eligibility for approximately 5100 of Hawaii's young keiki, Ho`okāko`o recognizes the critical need for these children to have access to high quality early learning experiences. Our community of schools, all of which are in remote, underserved areas of the State, including Moloka'i, Hawai'i Island and Wai'anae on O'ahu, do 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 Executive Director of three public conversion charter school, or nearly 20% of the students in Hawaii's charter school system, 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 school (SB 2236), we also support the establishment of an ECE program that builds capacity through private sector partnerships (SB2826). 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 SB2826, 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.

Megan McCorriston
Executive Director
Ho`okāko`o Corporation

INPEACE- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture

TESTIMONY

SBs 2975, 2826, 2236, & 2768

RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, LEARNING and KINDERGARTEN

Testimony Presented Before Committee on Education

January 29, 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 SBs 2975, 2826, 2236, & 2768.**

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 **strongly supports SB 2975** because we understand the value of this program 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. Support of FCILs through SB 2975 sends a clear message that the state is willing to diversify the early learning options based on family need and choice!

We **support SB 2826**, upon ratification, because it will move our state one step closer to building a viable early learning system. To establish this, we are committed to working with multiple organizations and agencies to offer a range of early learning programs that meet different needs and values to effectively serve the community more broadly and support the success of our most at-risk children. We support a system that provides families with culturally responsive, high-quality early learning opportunities that enables healthy, successful development, and the ability of each child to reach their full potential.

We **support SB 2236** 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 SB 2768** because this bill encourages collaboration & alignment between the early learning system and the HIDOE to establish a kindergarten readiness program.

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.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

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

TO: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Education

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 414
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 2236, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2236, 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 Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.



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

Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, January 29, 2014
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

SB 2236 – Allowing agreements of use for public school or charter school space

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

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.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

January 29, 2014

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

This testimony is submitted in support for SB2236, allowing the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into agreements with the Department of Education to use vacant or underutilized classrooms for public preschools statewide.

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 has consistently supported the establishment of a statewide early childhood learning program, supporting of the formation of the Executive Office of Early Learning, and the school readiness program, which targets the underserved and at-risk four-year-olds that will not be able to attend Junior Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 school year. Accordingly, the Coalition also supports the effort to expand pre-school at our public schools and the financial appropriation to do so, as an option to provide our children under the age of five, a high quality education experience. Access is key, especially in rural areas. We also continue to recommend an outreach program to families so that they understand the options available for their pre-Kindergarten children.

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 (*)



HPCCA

HAWAII PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Senate Committee on Education

The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

The Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of SB2236

Relating to Early Learning

Submitted by Robert Hirokawa, Chief Executive Officer

January 29, 2014, 1:30pm, Room 414

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCCA), which represents the federally qualified community health centers in Hawaii, supports Senate Bill 2236, which sets aside vacant or unused classrooms as preschool classrooms.

The HPCCA is a staunch believer in the social determinants of health, those economic and social conditions that influence an individual and a community's health status. These conditions serve as risk factors endemic to a person's living and working environment, rather than their behavioral or genetic histories. Factors such as income, education, access to recreation and healthy foods, housing, and employment, can and do have measurable impacts on a person and a community, both in health and financial outcomes.

Chief amongst social determinants is education. Research has found that the earliest years of a child's development can have lasting impacts on their educational attainment. Children with the opportunity for high-quality early childhood education are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Such attainment can lead to higher rates of degree completion, higher incomes later in life, and better overall physical and mental well-being.

For these reasons, we support SB 2236. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 2236 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2236 – Relating to Early Learning.

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.

The Chamber supports the bill’s intent to provide facilities for early childhood learning – a necessary tool to shape the future of Hawaii. Providing a proper environment for the children of Hawaii is the first step to investing in a bright future for the next generation.

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, January 29, 2014

Relating To Senate Bill 2236
Testifying in Support

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

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports SB2236 Relating to Early Learning**, which would authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the Department of Education (DOE) and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms for preschool.

The first five years of a child's life is an incredibly important time for their brain development and this bill would increase opportunities for learning in an academic setting. The Party believes allowing EOEL to contract with the DOE and charter schools would benefit all parties involved. EOEL would be able to provide space for its preschool programs, while creating cost savings and greater efficiency for the DOE and charter schools by maximizing space currently available and unused.

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



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

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2236, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

Honorable Chair Tokuda and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMU Alliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of SB 2236.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, Hawaii is among 11 states lacking a state-funded pre-kindergarten program. In 2014, the state's junior kindergarten program will be eliminated, leaving approximately 5,100 late-born four-year-olds without a public preschool option. Parents of these children will be forced to turn to the private education marketplace to find pre-kindergarten services for their children, at an average cost of \$8,640 per year (or \$720 per month). According to the Good Beginnings Alliance, in 2013, the average statewide monthly preschool cost amounts to \$13,680,000. GBA has also put together a sliding funding scale estimating how much money would be needed annually for state-supported 12-month preschool programs for varying percentages of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten population. Their estimates show that 1,200 children (6.3 percent) can be covered at a cost of \$10,368,000; 5,000 (26.3 percent) at a cost of \$43,200,000; 7,500 (39.4 percent) at a cost of \$64,800,000; and 10,000 (52.6 percent) at a cost of \$86,400,000. Notably, in a 2011 report on income self-sufficiency in Hawaii, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism estimated that for parents to afford licensed care for one child, as well as before- and after-school care for a school-aged child, a Honolulu family of four must earn \$61,900 annually. A single working parent, by comparison, would need to earn \$56,400 per year. Sadly, DBEDT estimates that 27 percent and 77 percent of such families, respectively, fall below the income thresholds necessary for "self-sufficiency." The situation is,

obviously, even more dire for Hawaii's low-wage working families. Therefore, we strongly endorse the governor's proposal to establish 30 preschool classes at public school facilities to serve 640 children from low-income families, ensuring that such children receive that educational preparation they need have successful academic careers. We also encourage lawmakers to appropriate the full \$4.5 million requested by the executive to actualize this effort.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

Senate Education Committee
Early Childhood Education (SB2236)
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

SB 2236 – STRONG SUPPORT

January 29, 2014

Testimony

Aloha, my name is Taffi Wise and I am testifying on behalf of the group of five preschools that make up **Ka HULI Mua, LLC**.

We would like to be considered for this program.

The **Hawaii United Learning Initiative** is a diverse preschool collaborator improving early learning outcomes in underserved communities across Hawai‘i.

Ka HULI Mua preschools convene regularly to strengthen programming, share information and coordinate testing, accreditation and professional development across the system. Aligned with state preschool and kindergarten standards, Ka HULI Mua preschools are grounded in research-based programs.

Ka HULI Mua preschools are committed to:

- Common assessment and longitudinal data collection;
- Accreditation, compliant facilities and professional staff development;
- Enriching classrooms that integrate Hawaiian language and culture;
- Sharing best practices in early education; and
- Honoring the diversity of members.

We are: Two Native Speaking Hawaiian & Ni‘ihau, One Bi-lingual and Two
Public Preschools – our uniqueness is our diversity.

Kaua‘i (Ni‘ihau)

Ke Kula Ni‘ihau o Kekaha Preschool

Enrollment: 12

Low-Income Students: 98%

Hawaiian Students: 100%

O‘ahu

Nā Pualei ‘o Sarah Ha‘inakolo Kupanihi Kamakau

Enrollment: 18

Low-Income Students: 53%

Hawaiian Students: 96%

Hawai‘i

Hōnaunau Preschool

Enrollment: 81

Low-Income Students: 92%

Hawaiian Students: 56%

Mālamapōki'i

Enrollment: 30

Low-Income Students: 64%

Hawaiian Students: 77%

Waimea Preschool

Enrollment: 66

Low-Income Students: 70%

Hawaiian Students: 85%

Attached is our program brochure, we are available for questions.

I respectfully request your support for SB 2236 and thank you for this opportunity!

KANU O KA 'ĀINA LEARNING 'OHANA



Executive Director

Taffi Wise

Ka HULI Mua



*The Hawai'i United
Learning Initiative*



A L O H A

A Pedagogy of Aloha

Ka HULI Mua is piloting a preschool system of academically rigorous curriculum delivered within an inclusive framework of native values for Hawai'i's children. Ka HULI Mua, a preschool consortium, is developing this new model that can be replicated in other charter preschool programs, particularly those serving Native Hawaiian children.

Learning Community Leadership Partners

Ka HULI Mua preschools convene regularly to strengthen programming, share information and coordinate testing, accreditation and professional development across the system. Aligned with state preschool and kindergarten standards, Ka HULI Mua preschools are grounded in research-based programs.

Access to Opportunities Now

Ka HULI Mua goals include:

- Providing low-income, disadvantaged Hawaiian families with a strong foundation in a culturally-based early childhood program;
- Delivering curriculum in a formal, safe and healthy environment;
- Exposing young learners to Hawaiian language, culture and values, and
- Teaching fundamentals to empower children to become enthusiastic and confident life-long learners.

Common Values Connect Us

Ka HULI Mua preschools are committed to:

- Common assessment and longitudinal data collection;
- Accreditation, compliant facilities and professional staff development;
- Enriching classrooms that integrate Hawaiian language and culture;
- Sharing best practices in early education, and
- Honoring the diversity of members.

Ka HULI Mua LLC is a nonprofit LLC under KALO and receives significant funding from Kamehameha Schools. Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana (KALO), and its partners are working to establish an autonomous, holistic, educational environment for the children of



Hawai'i: grounding every child and adult in the values that have shaped and empowered Hawaiians for generations; involving every member of the Hawaiian community in determining his/her educational path and preparing every child of Hawai'i to thrive in the modern world, free from oppression and with pride for our heritage.

[For More Information](#)

Taffi Wise, Ka HULI Mua Manager

Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana

64-1043 Hi'iaka Street, Hālaul Ho'olako, Kamuela, HI 96473

Phone: 808-887-1117

taffi@kalo.org



**Two Native Speaking
Hawaiian & Ni'ihau, One
Bi-lingual and Two Public
Preschools**

Kau'i (Ni'ihau)

Ke Kula Ni'ihau o Kekaha Preschool

Enrollment: 12

Low-Income Students: 98%

Hawaiian Students: 100%

O'ahu

Nā Pualei 'o Sarah Ha'inakolo Kupanihi Kamakau

Enrollment: 18

Low-Income Students: 53%

Hawaiian Students: 96%

Hawai'i

Hōnaunau Preschool

Enrollment: 81

Low-Income Students: 92%

Hawaiian Students: 56%

Mālamapōki'i

Enrollment: 30

Low-Income Students: 64%

Hawaiian Students: 77%

Waimea Preschool

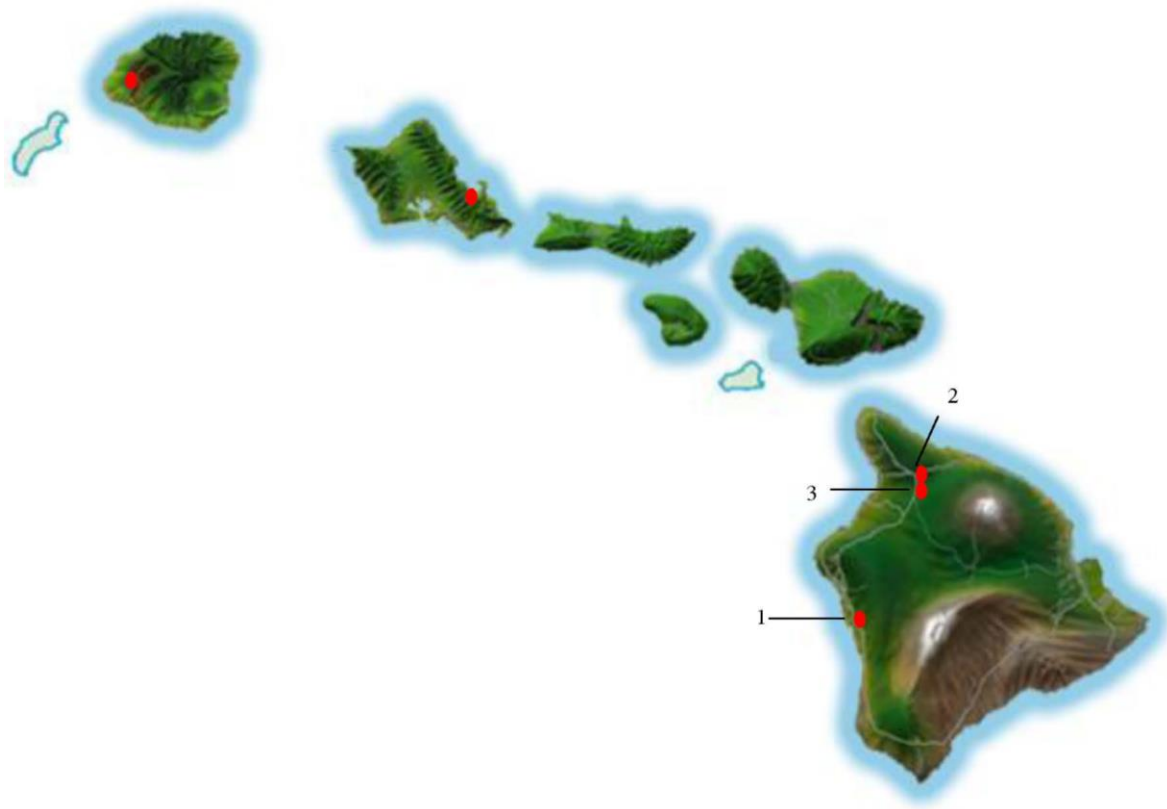
Enrollment: 66

Low-Income Students: 70%

Hawaiian Students: 85%



Ka HULI Mua (LLC) - A Preschool Consortium



Kaua'i

Ke Kula Ni'ahau o Kekaha Preschool
8135 Kekaha Rd Kekaha, HI 96752
Mailing: PO Box 129 Kekaha, HI 96752
808.337.0481 / Fax: 808.337.1289
Po'o: Haunani Seward
haunani_seward@notes.k12.hi.us
cc: byron_cleeland@notes.k12.hi.us

O'ahu:

Nā Pualei 'o Sarah Ha'inakolo Kupanihi Kamakau
46-500 Kūneki St. Kane'ohe, HI 96744
808.235.9175 / Fax: 808.235.9173
Po'o: Meahilahila Kelling
meahilahila@kamakau.com
cc: kamehaililani@kamakau.com

Hawai'i:

1. Hōnaunau Preschool
83-5360 Māmalahoa Hwy
Captain Cook, HI 96704
808.328.2727 / Fax 808.328.2729
Po'o: Uvonne Lindsey (808.327-4991)
Uvonne_Lindsey@notes.k12.hi.us
2. Mālamapōki'i
64-1043 Hiiaka St Kamuela, HI 96743
Mailing: PO Box 398 Kamuela, HI 96743
808.890.8144 / Fax: 808.890.8146
Po'o: Pat Bergin
pat@kalo.org
3. Waimea Preschool
67-1229 Māmalahoa Hwy Kamuela, HI 96743
808.887.7636 / Fax: 808.887.7640
Po'o: Uvonne Lindsey (808.327-4991)
Uvonne_Lindsey@notes.k12.hi.us





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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

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

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2014

RE: S.B. 2236 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, The Honorable Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani and the Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports and recommends amendments to SB 2236** relating to the usage of vacant and underutilized classrooms for public preschool classrooms.

HSTA is the exclusive representative of more than 13,500 public and charter schoolteachers statewide. As the state affiliate of the 3.2 million members of the National Education Association, HSTA believes in public preschools being taught by public school teachers. The association recognizes the value of quality early childhood education program in preparing young children to enter schools ready to learn.

HSTA is seeking clarification in the proposed definition of a “qualified educational professional”. HSTA believes that high quality early childhood programs should be staffed by highly qualified teachers, as they possess a deep understanding of child development and specialized training in early childhood education. As such, we recommend that all teachers working in publicly funded preschools hold a bachelor’s degree in child development and/or early childhood education.

Further, we believe that federal legislation should be enacted to assist in organizing the implementation of fully funded early childhood education programs offered through the public schools. These programs must be available to all children on an equal basis and should include mandatory kindergarten with compulsory attendance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2236**.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
January 29, 2014, 1:30 p.m.
by

Donald B. Young
Personal Testimony

SB 2236 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, 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.

On behalf of the College of Education, I support SB 2236, 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 provides a pathway for doing so.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Education Committee

Re: SB 2826 Relating to Early Learning

Wednesday, January 29, 2014
1:30 pm, Conference Rm. 414

I am pleased to write in support of SB 2236. My colleague Lokelani Han of Molokai recently told me of a successful Pre-K program that is housed at Kualapu`u Public Charter School. I also know of the successful preschool program at Linapuni School. To me this indicates a strong commitment on the part of some public and charter schools to serve the learning and development needs of all keiki in their communities. I think this option should be explored further. It is partnerships such as this that will help to solve the puzzle of how to address early learning needs in our communities.

This bill will also be life-changing for so many of our keiki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Gillentine, PhD, NBCT
Early Learning Specialist
Windward District

Testimony in support of:

SB 2236 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools,

SB2826 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program and

SB2975 – Appropriations for the EOEL to contract third party providers of FCIL

Senate Committee on Education

January 29, 2014

1:30 pm, Conf Rm 414

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

I am in support of SB2236, SB 2826 and SB2975, as they increase the state's capacity to provide quality early learning services to Hawaii's young children.

I am a retired DOE administrator and special education teacher and understand the importance of early education services for young 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.

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.

With that said, I do recognize the critical need for pre-kindergarten aged 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 to provide high quality preschool services.

I would recommend that until the public and private early learning system has the capacity to serve *all* pre-kindergarten aged children, with out discrimination or displacing the younger three or two year old cohorts, 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 a fair and equitably mixed, public and private early learning system.

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

John Flynn,
Retired, DOE Principal, District Special Education Educational Officer

Testimony in support of:

SB2236 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools,

SB2826 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program and

SB2975 – Appropriations for the EOEL to contract third party providers of FCIL

Senate Committee on Education

January 29, 2014

1:30 pm, Conf Rm 414

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

I am in support of SB2236, SB 2826 and SB2975, 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 many 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. It is also imperative that the EOEL assure that any contracted private provider safeguard both State and Federal laws that assure equal access to programs and protect against any violations of federal and state civil rights laws.

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

January 26, 2014
Hearing on Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.
Senate Education Ways and Means Committee
Conference Room 414
In support of SB 2236

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 SB 2236 relating to early childhood education, as it makes an appropriation to authorize 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.

The Windward P- 3 Grant & its Demonstration Project appreciates and acknowledges the need for this particular measure in order for the Executive Office on Early Learning to proceed with its educational plan for Hawaii's young children.

The Windward P-3 Demonstration project works collaboratively with DOE elementary schools, early learning programs of varying auspices, community based programs, health, safety, welfare providers, and families. We passionately work towards having developmentally appropriate early learning programs and services on our public and charter elementary campuses.

As an educator I am in support of SB2236 as it provides eligible families with another option when considering developmentally appropriate, high quality early learning opportunities for their keiki.

By investing in Hawaii's youngest residents today with an early learning system that provides a plethora of quality learning experiences, we invest in a future in Hawaii that:

- Has higher retention and graduation rates
- Has lower teen pregnancy/parent rates
- Invests in education more than incarceration

It is time for us to seriously invest in our future by making an investment in our keiki.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2236.

Jan. 28, 2014

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Senate Education Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Senate Education Vice Chair; and committee members

I am in strong support of proposed legislation (SB 2826, SB 2236, SB 2975 and SB 2768) RELATED TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND KINDERGARTEN.

High-quality early education or developmentally (culturally and linguistically) appropriate programs, prior to entering kindergarten, positively affect the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional outcomes of young children. Provided with such opportunities, children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond, and more likely to grow into healthy, capable, and contributing adults. Studies have proven that high-quality programs are especially effective for at-risk children, including low-income and otherwise disadvantaged children, with the great potential to alter their lifetime trajectories.

In Hawaii only 40% of our 4 year olds receive early childhood education services to prepare them for kindergarten and not all are high quality. Children with a lack of readiness for school creates an achievement gap that often follows children to later grades in school. In addition, 1 in 6 children in Hawaii live in poverty, and most do not have equal access to high quality early childhood education. This not only affects individual children, families, communities but also affects the rest of society.

Societies that invest in quality early learning boast higher levels of educational attainment; reduced homelessness, crime, and substance abuse; improved health; and better overall social and economic well-being. In Hawaii every \$1 invested in early learning generates \$4.20 in future savings and increased earnings. Many in Hawaii's education field, including DOE educators, agree that if we're going to put our money anywhere in education, it should be in early learning.

Recognizing the significant benefits of high-quality early learning programs, federal, state, as well as local governments have substantially increased their investments in preschool programs in the past decade. Unfortunately, Hawaii is one of the last 10 states without a State-funded early learning program and if this bill is passed, we will finally join the rest of the states with our own State-funded early learning program.

I am in strong support of **SB 2826 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**, which will enable Hawaii to implement a statewide early childhood education program, upon ratification of amendment to article X, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution. This early childhood education program with providers of high quality early learning education will be established within the Early Learning System, established by section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

SB 2826, outlines Hawaii's over 25 year that our state has been slowly building support for an early learning system. With increased attention nationwide on the positive results from high quality prekindergarten programs, more opportunities for federal funding and increased rigor

in early learning and K-12 educational standards, Hawaii cannot afford to take any more time. We need to act as soon as the constitutional amendment is ratified. Once ratified, public dollars could go to qualified private early childhood providers as well as the DOE to build a mixed service delivery system of high quality early childhood education.

With the passage of SB 2826, the State will:

- Build capacity for 4 year olds.
- Build on the existing and private investments.
- Establish developmentally appropriate quality standards linked to children's educational outcomes.
- Utilize a mixed service delivery system (e.g. center-based, group child care homes, family child care programs, family child interaction learning programs, faith-based, DOE) and contract with eligible providers.
- Contract with eligible providers who meet structural quality (physical environment, child-adult ratios, group size, caregiver qualifications, compensation), have a quality curriculum and provide intentional teaching. In addition, there will be particular focus on positive teacher-child interactions, individual child formative assessment, and family engagement.
- Recognize that eligible providers administer early education programs conducted in Hawaiian and English languages.
- Have eligible programs that address multiple domains of children's learning and development (physical, social, emotional, linguistic, cognitive, approaches to learning).
- Offer voluntary early learning programs to 3 and 4 year olds, with priority to children in year before kindergarten, and underserved or at-risk children.
- Enable EOEL to provide support to eligible providers about how to implement quality standards (positive teacher-child interactions, individual child formative assessment, family engagement, and curriculum aligned with Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

In addition, I am in strong support of **SB 2236 RELATED TO EARLY LEARNING**, which authorizes EOEL to enter into agreements with the DOE and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. These classrooms will give priority to DOE and charter schools serving at-risk children and these classroom are in addition to current pre-plus programs. It is sound fiscal policy to use existing classrooms before constructing new ones.

Another bill that I am in strong support of is **SB 2975 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNIG**, which will make an appropriation for the EOEL to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs (FCILs). High quality FCILs are a vital and important part of the mixed delivery early learning system in Hawaii, often serving Native Hawaiian rural and urban communities for many years.

Finally, I am in strong support of **SB 2768 RELATING TO KINDERGARTEN**, which will make DOE kindergarten mandatory for a child who will be at least five years of age on July 31 of the school year. This legislation will also require the DOE, in collaboration with the EOEL, to develop a statewide kindergarten readiness program and establish an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system.

Studies have shown that high quality full day kindergarten is very beneficial for young children's short term and long term success in school and life. Yet, this critical grade is often overlooked in the K-12 system. And with attention to a voluntary prekindergarten program it makes sense to make DOE kindergarten mandatory. Full day DOE kindergarten mandatory will confirm Hawaii's commitment to our future kindergarteners and their families. High quality kindergarten, should not be a push down of first grade curriculum but it needs to be an enriching developmentally (culturally and linguistic) appropriate kindergarten where each and every child can reach challenging yet achievable goals.

In addition, I support the passage of SB 2768 to develop a statewide kindergarten readiness program, with an individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system. I believe this kindergarten readiness program, along with the state prekindergarten program needs to be part of the birth through 3rd grade (or P-3) continuum. The individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system should be an entry assessment that is developmentally appropriate and assess multiple domains of learning (e.g. physical, social-emotional, cognitive, linguistic, approaches to learning) and a formative assessment that is used by teachers to link with curriculum and improve instruction and educational outcomes.

With SB 2768, I support the appropriation to the DOE for \$450,000 for 2014-15. This funding will help DOE with administration, technology, and support for establishing the individualized kindergarten readiness assessment system and provide for 4 full time equivalent (FTE) positions for professional development and training of kindergarten teachers.

Thank you for your compassion, commitment and leadership establishing high quality early education and kindergarten for Hawaii' keiki, their families and our entire society.

Sincerely,

Terry Lock
Junior Specialist
University of Hawaii at Manoa, College of Education
Institute for Teacher Education
Everly Hall, Room 224
locktf@hawaii.edu

January 28, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing to express my support of the following bills:

SB2826

SB2236

SB2975

SB2768

I believe these bills will promote the welfare of the children and families of Hawaii. I am concerned that our youngest, most impressionable members of our society receive every measure we can provide to equip them for a bright and successful future. Thank you for your tireless support of our people and for working for the best interests of Hawaii. Please vote in support of these important measures.

Mahalo,

Terry Nakamura

Testimony in support of:

SB 2236 - Public Preschools in DOE and Charter Schools,

SB2826 - Establishing an Early Childhood Education Program and

SB2975 – Appropriations for the EOEL to contract third party providers of FCIL

Senate Committee on Education

January 29, 2014

1:30 pm, Conf Rm 414

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

I am in support of SB2236, SB 2826 and SB2975, as they increase the state's capacity to provide quality early learning services to Hawaii's young children.

I am a parent of four children, and former teacher with a preschool and Family Child Interaction Program. I understand the importance of early education services for young children do support a state funded Early Childhood Education program.

I do not believe that raising the Kindergarten age is needed to begin a new publically funded preschool. There has been too much emphasis on raising test scores, and delaying the age of kindergarten entry is a misguided effort that assumes that if our children are the same age as those in other states, test score comparisons will be more equitable. Frankly, I do not think that sacrificing the education of 5100 so called late born children, is worth making more "equitable" test score comparisons.

Maintaining the public kindergarten entry age at December 31, and making available state funded pre-kindergarten to three and four year old children, will ensure that all of Hawaii's young children have the right foundation for their learning and development that they deserve.

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

Tara Awai,

Mother and former Early Childhood Education Teacher

Testimony to
The Senate Education Committee

Wednesday, January 29, 2014
1:30 pm

Conference Room 414
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Senate Bill 2236, Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Tokuda, 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, relating 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

February 28, 2014

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

From: Robyn S. B. Chun
rsbchun@gmail.com

Education Committee Hearing
February 28, 2014

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Thank you for your policy leadership when it comes to addressing the needs of Hawai'i's youngest keiki as well as your tireless work in the community supporting many of the early childhood organizations and practitioners across a diverse spectrum that are care passionately about young children (birth through 8 years) and their families.

I am testifying in support of S.B. 2826, S.B. 2236, S.B. 2975 and S.B. 2768 which enable Hawai'i to establish an Early Childhood Education Program that is part of the larger Early Learning System established in section 302L-2 Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The proposed amendments to the Act and supporting bills build on previous legislation and incorporates the contributions from multiple stakeholders. It allows the state to begin work on a mixed-delivery system for children birth through 8-years-old that builds on the strengths and collective public and private sector resources in our communities on behalf of our most needy young children and their families.

My work as a teacher in preschools and DOE K-1 classrooms, as family child care provider and teacher educator, and my personal experience as a mother of twins, has impressed upon me the importance of providing each child with a meaningful and culturally relevant early experience that will address each child's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development.

The Executive Office on Early Learning has demonstrated it is a partner that works hand-in-hand with families, advocacy agencies and diverse organizations within our early childhood professional Ohana. Their work builds upon years of effort on behalf of many groups and will assure that we move forward building on the wisdom and expertise of representatives of our island community and field as we design and implement an early learning system where:

- each young child is assured of a strong foundation to succeed educationally and in life,

- families and communities are supported and empowered as partners in assuring their keiki succeed as lifelong learners and contributing members of our communities and society; and,
- there are culturally and geographically responsive program options to address the needs and concerns of our most vulnerable keiki and families.

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

The field of early childhood education has existed for many years without a steady funding base and as a result is characterized by difficulty retaining and growing a highly skilled workforce. As a teacher educator, I am mindful of the investment needed to provide for an adequate infrastructure that results in high quality programs. In order to ensure children can benefit from the kind of services that can lead to lifelong positive outcomes, I hope that adequate funding will be designated to support early educators in their professional development needs, to create career and educational pathways for the field, and to attract and retain a highly trained workforce. I am also hopeful that this support will create opportunities for professional development that crosses over the boundaries of institutions and that fosters opportunities for collaboration and community across settings. It seems it would be necessary for practitioners across the spectrum of settings to have shared experiences and understanding we are to build an early learning system together.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their well-being from the start. These bills collectively are a positive step forward in helping Hawaii's families provide for their keiki during the early childhood years (birth through age 8 years). It creates an opportunity for shared leadership that listens to and reflects the needs, wisdom, and expertise of our community. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2826, S.B. 2236, S.B. 2975, and S.B. 2768.

Sincerely yours,
Robyn S. B. Chun
Early Childhood Teacher Educator

From: [Elisa Leialoha](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2826 and SB2236
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 12:43:47 PM

Elisa Leialoha from Kahului, HI writes:

Aloha Tokuda and Kidani, I am writing in support of SB2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program, within the Early Learning System, established by section 302L-2, HRS; and SB2236,

I like how this 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. I think that this is such a great idea. We really need more spaces to create programs.

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 (Which we now implement in our Early Head Start Program) 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 contracts w/ our local non-profit preschools and our public school system. Now, we need your help once again and pass SB2826. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed. We really need to do something about this on Maui. Please support SB2826 and SB2236, and thank-you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo! Elisa Leialoha

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): islandkeiki@hotmail.com

First Name: Elisa

Last Name: Leialoha

City: Kahului

State: HI

ZIP Code: 96732

From: [Gwen Woltz](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SB2826 and SB2236
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 4:15:20 PM

Gwen Woltz from Kaaawa, HI writes:

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing in support of SB2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS; and SB2236, 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 announcement made by the Governor to open over 30 pre-k classes in the most underserved communities is a great start, and I hope the funding will be approved. I feel it is also your duty to ensure that ALL children, not just those in the lower income bracket are served with public preschool. It is the middle class that often struggles the most. If their families are left behind in this initiative, it is my belief that many of us will fall into the lower income bracket.

First and foremost, private preschool is NOT affordable for the middle class. With the elimination of junior k, options for low cost or free preschool are currently slim to none in Hawaii.

Second, state funded preschool for ALL children will ensure that the middle class can continue to work, contribute to the economy, and raise their families. With no childcare or preschool option, that leaves one parent or both with very limited work schedules. Full time school opens up work schedules and presents far more opportunities for full-time work.

I would also like to voice my opinion in support of SB2189, that has not yet been scheduled for a hearing. My daughter is one of the gap year children affected by the recent entry requirement change, and I feel that these children deserve special exceptions, when appropriate. This bill would accommodate the thousands of families who may not see pre-k as the best option for their child.

In my case, it may be the best option to put my daughter into Kindergarden as we originally had planned when we put her into pre-school two years ago. Another year of pre-school seems too repetitive and we do not want her to get bored, and Kindergarden will allow me to have a full time work schedule.

Please support SB2826, SB2236, and schedule a hearing for SB2189, and thank-you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future.

Mahalo!

Gwen Woltz

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): gwendolyn.j.woltz@gmail.com

First Name: Gwen

Last Name: Woltz

City: Kaaawa

State: HI

ZIP Code: 96730

From: Vincent_Krakau/NAALEHU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Early Learning Bills Funding Request Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 7:18:34 AM

Aloha!

Please accept this request to fund the Early Learning Bills through the DOE schools in low income areas. As an Educator I can see a big difference that the structure and time spent with children in this age group can make a big impact on not only learning their foundational skills but also social/emotional skills that they use throughout their schooling years.

The DOE has certified teachers who follow a specific DOE curriculum ensuring that the time spent in these classrooms is beneficial to developing a strong foundation for learning and developing life skills helping our children become college and career ready.

With this type of structure it guarantees that our children are receiving benefits beyond what can be provided in a traditional Day Care setting. With the majority of our families living in lower income and isolated areas the accessibility of transportation will increase the likelihood of the students attending school. The DOE system also provides Outreach programs to the isolated areas in an effort to show our families the benefit of what we can offer their children.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request to help Hawaii's children become "all they can be".

Sincerely
Vincent Krakau

From: Janice_Mcroberts/NAALEHU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Early learning Bills Funding Request Testimony
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 7:35:38 AM

Aloha!

Please accept this request to fund the Early Learning Bills through the DOE schools in low income areas. As an Educator I can see a big difference that the structure and time spent with children in this age group can make a big impact on not only learning their foundational skills but also social/emotional skills that they use throughout their schooling years.

The DOE has certified teachers who follow a specific DOE curriculum ensuring that the time spent in these classrooms is beneficial to developing a strong foundation for learning and developing life skills helping our children become college and career ready.

With this type of structure it guarantees that our children are receiving benefits beyond what can be provided in a traditional day care setting. With the majority of our families living in lower income and isolated areas the accessibility of transportation will increase the likelihood of the students attending school. The DOE system also provides Outreach programs to the isolated areas in an effort to show our families the benefit of what we can offer their children.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request to help Hawaii's children become "all they can be".

Sincerely
Janice McRoberts

From: Carol_Porter/NAALEHU/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Early Learning Bill
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 2:50:57 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in support of funding for the Early Learning Bills for the DOE schools in low income areas. As a current DOE preschool educator at Na'alehu School, I can see a big difference that the structure and time spent with the children in this age group is making on their future success at school. We are providing not only foundational skills in language arts and math but also social/emotional, language and social skills. As DOE employees, we are certified teachers who follow specific DOE guidelines and curriculum. We are included in all PD sessions on campus as well as outside training offered.

With this type of structure it guarantees that our children are receiving benefits beyond what can be provided in a traditional Day Care setting. Attending preschool here also familiarizes the children and their families with the routines and expectations they will encounter in Kindergarten and beyond. (i.e. attendance expectations, uniforms, free lunch and playground routine, etc.) With the majority of our families living in lower income and isolated areas the accessibility of transportation will increase the likelihood of the students attending school. The DOE system also provides Outreach programs to the isolated areas in an effort to show our families the benefit of what we can offer their children.

I invite you to visit one of our preschool classes and observe first hand the quality of our program.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the many benefits to our program and our quest to help Hawaii's children to become "all they can be".

Sincerely,
Carol Porter

From: [Alfred Castle](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Early Childhood Education
Date: Monday, January 27, 2014 6:27:22 AM

I fully support SG 2975, SB 2236, SB2826, and 2768.

Alfred L. Castle
Executive Director and Treasurer
Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1275
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone (808) 522-1101
Fax (808) 522-1103

SB2236

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for EDU on Jan 29, 2014 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jarrett Keohokalole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani, I support SB2236, which helps expand access to preschool to the children of Hawaii. As the data conclusively shows, this is one of the most effective methods available for improving our education system. Mahalo!

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Sviokla	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support using unused state real estate to expand the Pre-K and K growth initiatives for the keiki of Hawaii. Let us use what we have ASAP to help as many children learn as soon as possible. Patricia Sviokla, HQ Hawaii teacher

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
debby	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Continue to support early childhood in Waianae

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice-Chair Kidani,

I am writing in support of SB2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2, HRS; and SB2236, 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, 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 contracts w/ our local non-profit preschools and our public school system. Now, we need your help once again and pass SB2826. This measure will ensure that Hawaii's preschool program will have the capacity, quality, and oversight to succeed. Please support SB2826 and SB2236, and thank-you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future.

Mahalo!

1. Jamie Yamagata from Kaneohe, HI
2. Kiana Shiroma from Kaneohe, HI
3. Mary Dizon from Honolulu, HI
4. Jamie Goya from Honolulu, HI
5. Robin Dickson from Wailuku, HI
6. Catherine Medeiros from Wailuku, HI
7. Karyn Clay from Kamuela, HI
8. Jackie Dudock from Honolulu, HI
9. Jin Chang from Pearl City, HI
10. Ave Diaz from Wailuku, HI
11. Millicent Villalon from Honolulu, HI
12. Cindy Jakubczak from Wailuku, HI
13. Gerald Altwies from Honolulu, HI
14. Theresa Rockafellow from Wailuku, HI
15. Shirena Leong from Kaneohe, HI
16. Christy Ryan from Wahiawa, HI
17. Hyung Cha from Honolulu, HI
18. Kenneth Nakamura from Honolulu, HI
19. Elizabeth O'Connor from Honolulu, HI
20. Kaleimomi Cezar from Honolulu, HI
21. Lois Magnussen from Honolulu, HI
22. Angela Sallerson from Wailuku, HI
23. Hermina Booyesen from Wailuku, HI
24. Michele 8087770057 from Honolulu, HI
25. Kate Rose from Honolulu, HI
26. Renee Espiau from Honolulu, HI
27. Naoi Leialoha from Kahului, HI
28. Arlene Tendo from Wailuku, HI

29. Rebecca (Becky) Kotake from Honolulu, HI
30. Cheri Richards from Waimanalo, HI
31. Melanie Padgett from Pukalani, HI
32. ayesha genz from hilo, HI
33. Jeffrey Tripp from Honolulu, HI
34. Samantha Ueno from Honolulu, HI
35. Gale McNish from Makawao, HI
36. Ravandolyn Galvin from Honolulu, HI
37. Brent Tamamoto from Aiea, HI
38. Jennifer Bryant from Honolulu, HI
39. Shilpa Patel from Honolulu, HI
40. Diane Arconado from Wailuku, HI
41. Aaron Landry from Honolulu, HI
42. Lani Szelag from Lanai City, HI
43. Kay Lipps from Honolulu, HI
44. Anstern Gouveia from Haiku, HI
45. Lisa Matsukata from Honolulu, HI
46. Javelle Kaneakua from Waimanalo, HI
47. Susan Collins from Kailua Kona, HI
48. Derek Ching from Honolulu, HI
49. Lani Robinson from Waialua, HI
50. Dena Akiu from Honolulu, HI
51. Audrey Kido from Kailua, HI
52. Kimberly Hokama from Kapolei, HI
53. Reina Kurisu from Kapaa, HI
54. Flo Nishimoto from Honolulu, HI
55. ALAN MCCRAY from HALEIWA, HI
56. Jane Yamashiro from Honolulu, HI
57. Cyntia Pennington from Wailuku, HI
58. Tracy Ruggiero from Kihei, HI
59. DANIEL MURAI from Honolulu, HI
60. Vince Yamashiroya from Honolulu, HI
61. Billy Henson from Honolulu, HI
62. Osiris Johnson from Honolulu, HI
63. Jane Best from Honolulu, HI
64. Justin Pequeno from Honolulu, HI
65. Sharon Tsai from Honolulu, HI
66. Roma Johnson from Kailua-Kona,
- 67.