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LATE

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

February 25, 2014

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

This testimony is submitted in support for SB2975, allowing the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers offering child family interaction early learning programs, and the financial support for these programs.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports the State's plan of offering a variety of early learning and education options for our children. We like the child family interaction programs, specifically because they are focused on engaging parents and families with their children in these critical early years. Some families may not want to enroll their children in a traditional pre-school program. Child family interaction programs offer an alternative to help parents/caregivers build their capacity to support their children, and give them the tools to guiding their children when they enter the K-12 system.

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 (*)



From: [Deborah Shelton](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 8:48:40 AM

Deborah Shelton from Hilo, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): hsbidshelton@pacthawaii.org

First Name: Deborah

Last Name: Shelton

City: Hilo
State: HI
ZIP Code: 96720



From: [Diane Ching](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 8:15:18 PM

Diane Ching from Honolulu, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am a Pediatrician writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo! Dr. Diane Ching

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Email 1 (Primary): litl_china@hotmail.com

First Name: Diane

Last Name: Ching

City: Honolulu

State: HI

ZIP Code: 96821



From: [Diane Sato](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 2:26:39 PM

Diane Sato from Kapaa, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

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Last Name: Sato

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State: HI

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SB 2975

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Testimony Presented Before Committee on Ways and Means
February 26, 2014, in Conference Room 211 @ 10:30 am
by Dr. Kanoë Nāone, Chief Executive Officer, INPEACE



On behalf of INPEACE, the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture, I express our **strong support for SB 2975**. 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. As CEO of INPEACE, I know that the passage of SB 2975 will have a lasting impact for our state and our future.

An equitable early childhood education is critical to the success of our children and the economic future of our state. As a Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) preschool program, Keiki Steps by INPEACE provides vital and culturally responsive services in schools where there are high rates of special education and low rates of preschool attendance. 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. FCILs have proven outcomes to get children ready for school. It's also cost effective. In addition to the \$2,400 cost per child, per year, FCILs have more than \$2,400 in family volunteer hours accounted for each child in the program, annually, at a rate of only \$8.00 per hour. Our program is **free** so parents and families don't have to worry about tuition, they are simply required to "volunteer" along-side their child at all times -- which we consider a co-payment.

Preparing students early is also a cost benefit to the state if you consider the \$18,000 annually per child/per year rate for special education – where many students without preschool experience end up. That's more than \$6,000 a year over the regular education costs of K-12 students, per child, per year.

To help combat this, 'Eleu, an early childhood consortium comprised of 6 organizations, collectively serves 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. 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!

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 that 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.



From: [jowell atiz](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 5:57:26 PM

jowell atiz from hilo, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): jowellatiz@ymail.com

First Name: jowell

Last Name: atiz

City: hilo

State: HI

ZIP Code: 96720



From: [Kamala Marahatta](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 6:32:58 PM

Kamala Marahatta from lihue, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

Form Data:

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First Name: Kamala

Last Name: Marahatta

City: lihue
State: HI
ZIP Code: 96766



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®



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

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

DATE: Wednesday, February 26, 2014
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 211
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

RE: SENATE BILL 2975, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2975, relating to early learning. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in support of appropriating funds for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed-delivery early learning system to ensure school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to entering kindergarten. This measure reflects the importance and value of a dual choice, public and private delivery system, as being cost effective for serving low income families. We have been committed to advancing early learning across the state and have served in a leadership role with the state's Early Learning Advisory Board which unequivocally supports family child interaction learning programs.

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.



From: [Keshia Adolpho](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 2975
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 9:47:39 AM

February 26, 2014

Testimony on SB 2975 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Senate Ways and Means Committees Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members
February 26, 2014 10:30am
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
Testimony submitted by: Keshia L. Adolpho

Aloha, Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee members. My name is Keshia Adolpho and I am a third year master's student with the University of Hawaii at Manoa's School of Social Work Distance Learning Program in Hilo. I am currently enrolled in an Advanced Social Work Policy course that is being taught by Dr. Wesley Lum. I am testifying in strong support of SB 2975 that would make an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs.

In my opinion, Early Learning is very important and fundamental in the beginning stages of learning for all of Hawaii's children and families. I am reminded of the Hawaiian proverb, "ma ka hana ka ike", or "in doing one learns". By funding programs that focus on Early Learning and the beginning stages of development I believe that we will be able to allow our children and families that opportunity to grow and learn and become contributing members of society. In early Hawaii the people were very well educated and were able to sustain high literacy rates. Today we see that our children and even many of our adults struggle with the mere ability to read and write.

I feel very strongly that this bill should be passed and hope that you will support me in saying yes to this bill. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to submit my testimony and for your commitment to Hawaii's people.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: kuukeoho@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2975 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 10:02:00 AM

SB2975

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ku'ulani Keohokalole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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From: [Leah Y](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 5:38:39 AM

Leah Y from Kailua, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

Form Data:

Email 1 (Primary): yamamoto.leah@gmail.com

First Name: Leah

Last Name: Y

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State: HI

ZIP Code: 96734



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ilkered3@rocketmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2975 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 5:45:28 PM

SB2975

Submitted on: 2/26/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: I ask, on behalf of families with children who are eligible for preschool special education services with the Department of Education, that the Legislature consider the Department of Human Services' written testimony-- And to include the Department of Education and Department of Health providers as third party providers to enter into contracts with the EOEL to provide for inclusion of children with disabilities and supporting their parents' choices rather than continued segregation in a special education classroom on a DOE campus meant for elementary students. -- Taken from DHS testimony. "...for an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed-delivery early learning system to ensure school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to entering kindergarten would benefit families in communities where community-based preschools are not available or for families for which family child interaction learning programs are the preferred option."

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

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From: [Lorna Tietjen](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:19:29 PM

Lorna Tietjen from Hawaiian Beaches, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

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Email 1 (Primary): hsbiltietjen@pacthawaii.org

First Name: Lorna

Last Name: Tietjen

City: Hawaiian Beaches

State: HI

ZIP Code: 96778



From: [Mamo Trueman](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 12:29:06 PM

Mamo Trueman from Waimanalo, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

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Email 1 (Primary): mamo2tu@gmail.com

First Name: Mamo

Last Name: Trueman

City: Waimanalo

State: HI

ZIP Code: 96795



Testimony to
The Senate Ways & Means Committee

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
Conference Room 211
Hawaii State Capitol

Re: Senate Bill 2975, Relating to Early Learning

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2975, relating to early learning. My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a retired school head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. I am testifying in support of appropriating funds for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed-delivery system to ensure school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to kindergarten.

Research demonstrates the critical importance of early education in the life-long success for all children and recognizes that parents are a child's first teachers. As an educator and through my involvement with early learning since the creation of the early learning educational task force in 2006, I have increasingly appreciated programs that integrate parents in the educational process of their children. Not only is family engagement important in setting a child on the right course for school, but programs like the family child interaction learning programs support the education of parents about how they can best teach their own children.

Choice is something we celebrate in Hawaii. The inclusion of family child interaction learning programs as part of the early learning system for our State ensures that choice is offered and that the system is responsive to our citizenry.

I urge the legislature to consider this bill favorably as it approaches addressing the needs of Hawaii's *keiki*.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, EdD



From: [Uluwehi Laurita-Urata](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of Early Learning Bills (SB2826, and SB2975)
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 7:59:11 AM

Uluwehi Laurita-Urata from Kapolei, HI writes:

Dear Chair Ige and Vice-Chair Kidani. I am writing in support of two early learning bills: S2826, which establishes the Early Childhood Education Program within the Early Learning System established by section 302L-2; and SB2975, which makes an appropriation for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs. The passage of these bills will build upon that foundation and further develop the capacity with both community-based preschools and our public school system required to meet the growing demand for the preschool programs our keiki so desperately need and deserve, as well as establish the assessment tools to ensure our children are prepared and ready to learn. Please support SB2826 and SB2975 and thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony in support of Hawaii's future. Mahalo!

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First Name: Uluwehi

Last Name: Laurita-Urata

City: Kapolei

State: HI

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