



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
1390 Miller Street, Room 303  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 3, 2016

**TO:** Roy Takumi, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director

**SUBJECT: HB 1715 – RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**

**Hearing Date:** Monday, February 8, 2016

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Conference Room 309

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates \$6,000,000 in general funds to fund the public prekindergarten program.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION:** The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) would like to thank the introducers of this bill for the funding to expand the Public Pre-Kindergarten Program. At this time, EOEL consists of one staff member who in addition to the Pre-Kindergarten Program, is also responsible for Pre-Plus Child Development Services and the Head Start Collaboration Office.

While the additional funding is greatly appreciated, EOEL does not have the capacity to expand the Pre-Kindergarten Program until we first address our immediate need to staff the office, identify additional available classroom space which meets the health and safety requirements for preschool students, work with interested principals, coordinate with the private provider community, develop the workforce of licensed teachers who have credentials in Early Childhood Education, and hire highly qualified teachers and educational assistants.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

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FOR: HB1715 Relating to the Public Prekindergarten Program  
DATE: Monday, February 8, 2016  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
COMMITTEE(S): House Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309  
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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**Testimony in support of the intent of HB1715**

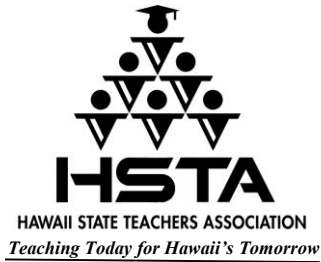
Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the intent of House Bill 1715, "Relating to the Public Prekindergarten Program."

As the Committee is aware, the Charter School Commission is the the recipient of a U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pre-School Development grant that is providing nearly \$15 million dollars over four years to provide high-quality pre-kindergarten programs for income-eligible four-year olds in 18 public charter schools.

The Commission is working closely with the Office of Early Learning to coordinate our collective efforts to bring a quality early education to more, and hopefully all, of our young children in Hawaii. With an eye toward the sustainability of the critical charter school initiative beyond the grant period, the Commission strongly supports efforts to continue building Hawaii's early learning infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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Corey Rosenlee  
President  
Justin Hughey  
Vice President  
Amy Perruso  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: HB 1715 - RELATING TO THE PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2016

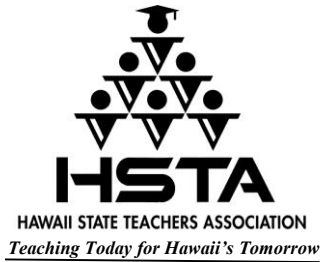
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 1715**, relating to the public prekindergarten program, **with suggested amendments**.

As noted by an MIT working group on the topic, investments in early childhood education pay dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting economic vitality. Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Preschool brings an approximately \$4.20 return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services, especially in terms of longterm life skills. At the national level, every dollar spent on early childhood education saves taxpayers up to \$13.00 in future costs, including lowered healthcare costs, reduced rates of educational remediation and prison incarceration, and higher productivity. Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not only helps working parents fulfill their responsibilities, but is essential for building a 21<sup>st</sup> century labor force.

Early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students. According to the High Scopes/Perry Preschool longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to



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Executive Director

quality early learning programs were 20 percent more likely to graduate from high school, 14 percent more likely to be employed, and 24 percent less likely to have been incarcerated by age 40 than peers without such access. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay and high-stakes evaluations for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

Utilizing public school resources for the provision of early learning will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certificated and licensed public school teachers. Additionally, public early learning programs will not set a nefarious precedent for the future adoption of school voucher programs at the elementary and secondary school level. Finally, this proposal does not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions, ensuring that the state will not become ensnared in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to a program that promotes a specific religious viewpoint. Public early learning will, instead, include research-based, developmentally appropriate, secular practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children. That said, during the budget process, **we urge you to request up to \$125 million for our state's public preschool program**, guaranteeing statewide access to as many children as possible.

Because early childhood education is beneficial to lifetime learning, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

February 8, 2016

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

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Dr. Tammy Bopp

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to the military*

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Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff

Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair

House Committee on Education

State Capitol

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 1715 - Relating to the Public Prekindergarten Program

Dear Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** HB 1715 that appropriates funds to provide high-quality early childhood education through the public schools, including charter schools.

SEAC was one of many organizations in the 2015 legislative session to recommend the establishment of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Prekindergarten Program. It is now time to provide adequate funding to enable more children to access these early childhood programs in public schools.

Quality intervention at an early age can reduce the need for more intensive interventions, including special education and related services, in subsequent years. SEAC also believes that increasing the availability of early learning programs that meet the high quality standards set by the EOEL will create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Martha Guinan  
Chair



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House Committee on Education

2:00 p.m.

February 8, 2016

State Capitol Room 309

HB 1715 Relating to Public PreKindergarten Program

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) has more than 800 members statewide. Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0-8) and their families.

HAEYC **supports** HB 1715 which makes appropriations to to the Executive Office on Early Learning to fund the public pre-kindergarten program.

HAEYC supports efforts to help assure that all keiki and their 'ohana have equitable access to important early childhood services, care, and education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

*Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawai'i's young children (0-8) and their families.*



Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 8, 2016

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**Address**

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96813

P: (808) 531-5502

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

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **HB 1715, Relating to the Public Pre-K Program – Support  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, February 8, 2016 – 2 P.M.**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of HB 1715, Relating to the Public Prekindergarten Program.**

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaiican.org/2016policyagenda>.

Last year, \$2.8 million was appropriated in the State Budget for the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten program, which operates in 18 public elementary schools serving approximately 400 children across the state. HB 1715 would help to solidify the program and allow for much needed expansion of DOE's public prekindergarten program into other areas of the state.

There is no debate that early learning opportunities have long lasting positive influence on children. We know, for example, that over 85 percent of a child's brain is developed by the age of five. Moreover, we know that almost 50 percent of Hawaii's four-year-olds receive little or no formal school readiness

experience before entering kindergarten. Despite positive advances over the past two years, Hawaii still remains far behind other states in providing early childhood education. Ultimately, this means that our DOE system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of early learning experience. By investing in our children early, we help save our DOE time and money.

This bill would also ensure that Hawaii is able to compete for federal funds for early learning programs. Most importantly, this bill would support thousands of families across Hawaii, who desperately want to send their keiki to preschool, but simply can't afford it.

As the state plans to expand public prekindergarten classes to other schools, we also urge for the restoration of the EOEL office staff and operations budget in the supplemental appropriations budget, which direly needed to restore and maintain the minimum required operations for EOEL to carry out its duties and functions.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that members of the House Committee on Education pass HB 1715, and also prioritize the restoration operational funding for EOEL in the FY 2016-17 budget as proposed in HB 2266.**





## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: February 8, 2016

Where: State Capitol Room 309

### TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk  
Kamehameha Schools

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

RE: **HB 1715 Relating to Early Learning Appropriations**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Takumi, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Ohno a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools. House Bill 1715 relating to early learning makes appropriations of \$6,000,000 to the Executive Office on Early Learning to fund the public pre-kindergarten program. We are writing in strong **support** of this measure.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian learners. 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, our Early Childhood Education division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of our 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 our Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawai'i's pre-kindergarten children.

We believe that this measure is an important step in supporting early learning throughout Hawai'i nei. We are committed to continuing to engage in dialog around early learning policies and proposals and strive to contribute in a positive and meaningful way.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.** Mahalo nui.

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
Monday, February 8, 2016, 2:00 p.m. Room 309  
by

Donald B. Young  
Personal Testimony in Support

HB 1715 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

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

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

I support HB 1715. We have long anticipated the State commitment to improving early learning opportunities for our children and within the College we have shifted internal resources to be ready to meet the increase in workforce demands. We have increased the number of our tenure track faculty with expertise in early childhood education, building capacity to better prepare teachers who are ready to provide age-appropriate early childhood education. We have created new programs to prepare early learning teachers and leaders.

In 2013, the Teacher Education Coordinating Committee prepared a position statement relevant to HB 1715. The TECC members, representing the education organizations that prepare teachers in the state, stated in part,

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

While it has taken longer than anticipated to actualize public support for prekindergarten programs, I continue to believe it is the right thing to do and urge you to pass HB 1715 along with its appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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About the TECC

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

**HB1715**

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan Armstrong	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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**Jenna Takenouchi**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2016 9:37 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** burgharc@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1715 on Feb 8, 2016 14:00PM

**HB1715**

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: It is nice to see a funding amount. Too often bills are passed with no funds. Preschool is important for all.

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