



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

February 5, 2016

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

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director

**SUBJECT: HB 1716 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, February 8, 2016  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Conference Room 309

**Purpose of Bill:** Changes the Early Learning Advisory Board to the Early Learning Commission.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION:** The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) appreciates the intent of this bill and its commitment to creating an effective governance structure to provide direction and oversight to EOEL. We provide the following comments for consideration.

Prior to the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, states were required to have an early childhood State Advisory Council (SAC) in order to receive federal funds. SACs were required by law to include the following representatives as Council members:

1. Representative of the state agency responsible for childcare
2. Representative of the state educational agency
3. Representative of the local educational agency
4. Representative of institutions of higher education in the state
5. Representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services
6. Representative from Head Start agencies located in the state
7. Director of the Head Start State Collaboration Office
8. Representative of the state agency responsible for the programs under Part B, Section 619 or Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
9. Representative of the state agency responsible for health or mental health

Currently, the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) meets these requirements and serves as the SAC in Hawai'i. ELAB functions well as an advisory board because it represents the various stakeholders in the early learning community. In addressing how to best structure the governance of EOEL, the committee should consider two distinct purposes: 1) governance and direction, as well as 2) advising and receiving advice from the stakeholder community.

At this time, the language in the ESSA authorizing document is not specific and the Department of Education has not yet gone through the rulemaking process related to the implementation of the ESSA. If Hawai'i is to remain eligible for federal funding it will be important to consider the language included in the administrative rules which have not yet been written.

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)**

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FOR: HB1716 Relating to Early Learning  
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 HB1716**

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 1716, "Relating to Early Learning."

As the Committee is aware, the Commission is 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.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Monday, February 8, 2016 at 2:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 1716 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1716, which changes the Early Learning Advisory Board to the Early Learning Commission.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 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.

Any effort to have more resources and dedication to an early learning system is positive. The Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it is 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.



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

February 8, 2016

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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 1716, Relating to Early Learning – Support with proposed  
amendments**  
**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 1716, Relating to Early Learning.**

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.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

The purpose of this bill is to make changes in the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) to the Early Learning Commission, among which, the primary change is to appoint and oversee the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL).

Act 178 (2012) established ELAB to replace the Early Learning Council, which previously helped to inform and administer the state's early learning system for children from birth to kindergarten. ELAB was created inform and build the state's system and is responsible for:

- Advising the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten;
- Providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early childhood care and education programs;
- Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and
- Being an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning.

HCAN is concerned that the transformation of the ELAB into a commission would pose governance concerns, with managing varied interests over such a large board providing oversight for the EOEL. Further, the commission model is generally utilized for regulatory functions, which are not part of the EOEL function. As such, HCAN supports the continuation of ELAB in its current form in as a mechanism for community and agency input and recommends instead the ELAB establish an Executive Committee that hires and oversees the EOEL director.

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that members of the House Committee on Education pass HB 1716, with changes.**

**HB1716**

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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February 5, 2016

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Education Committee

**Re: HB 1716 Relating to Early Education --- Support Intent**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 309, February 8, 2016, 2:00 pm**

My name is Robert G. Peters and, while I serve as chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB), I am testifying as an individual and not speaking for the ELAB which is still discussing the legislation as written.

HB 1716 is designed to convert the ELAB from an advisory board to a commission with governing authority. I appreciate the intent of the bill to create a governing authority but recommend that the following be considered:

- Will the commission membership make-up as constituted in the bill allow for governing authority, including the hiring/termination of the EOEL Executive Director?
- Are there potential conflicts of interest given the public member representatives relative to policy, budget design and directing funds?
- Will a commission as it evolves be able to serve as the State Advisory Council to secure federal funding, assuming the ESSEA's administrative rules require specific membership as they have in the past?
- How can the design of commission membership ensure that needed expertise is brought to its policy and decision-making?
- Where would oversight of the commission, if established, reside?

The EOEL is at a critical juncture having moved out of the Governor's Office.. I hope the legislation moves forward in concept and that revisions will consider how two critical objectives can be met: governance and direction,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and please know the ELAB is willing to consult with the Education Committee as it continues with this legislation.

Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Head of School (ret.), Hanahau`oli School