



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

February 24, 2016

TO: Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: HB 2266, HD1 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EARLY LEARNING
Hearing Date: February 25, 2016
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 303

Purpose of Bill: Makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning and Early Learning Advisory Board for staffing and travel.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **strongly supports** HB 2266, HD 1 and would like to thank the introducers of the bill.

EOEL is committed to our mission which is to coordinate efforts to help ensure a solid foundation for Hawai'i's young children, prenatal to age five, by working with partners, families, and communities and connecting policies, programs, and funding in relation to health, safety, early childhood education, and school readiness and success.

Adequate staffing and funding is crucial in order to address the comprehensive responsibilities of the office, currently in statute.

The cost requested for travel for Early Learning Advisory Board members to attend meetings is \$28,800.

It has recently come to my attention that the title of the position currently in the executive budget and HB 2266 requires a correction and I'd like to clarify my request. While the position requested is for a Data Processing Systems Analyst VI, what I am requesting is a Research Statistician IV. The Research Statistician IV will conduct research studies yielding data which will be instrumental in guiding decision making for my office. The salary for the Research Statistician IV is \$57,168 and the difference in cost would be an additional \$60 per year.

We respectfully request that the language on p.1, section 1, line 10, be revised to read, "\$ for the establishment of a research statistician IV position for the executive office on early learning."

Unlike the data position, funding for the secretary position and funds for travel are not currently in the executive budget. The secretary position is required to manage daily operations of the office. Both the research statistician and secretary positions are crucial to support and expand the early learning system for all children in Hawai'i. The cost of the secretary position is \$39,492.

We respectfully request that if this bill passes final reading, the effective date be changed to July 1, 2016.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

February 25, 2016

Board of Directors

Officers

David Randall
President

David Okumura
Vice President

Ben Ancheta
Vice President

Deborah Zysman
*Vice President and
Executive Director*

Tracy Nakashima
Treasurer

Dean Wong
Secretary

Mark M. Murakami
Past President

Directors

Cathy Ogawa
Chris Jackson
Darin Leong

Jennifer Thompson
Keith Vieira
Kimi Takazawa
Susan Smith
Dr. Travis Hong
Tyler Dos Santos-
Tam
Wendy Correa

Address

850 Richards Street
Suite 201
Honolulu, HI
96813

P: (808) 531-5502

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

Re: **HB 2266, HD1 Making Appropriations for Early Learning – Support
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 25, 2016, 11 A.M.**

**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good
Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in strong support of HB 2266, HD1
Making Appropriations for 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>.

This bill seeks to restore funds for general operation costs for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the following purposes:

- (1) \$28,800 for travel and attendance at relevant conferences for the Early Learning Advisory Board;
- (2) \$39,492 for the establishment of a secretary IV position for the EOEL;
and
- (3) \$59,736 for the establishment of a data processing systems analyst VI position for the EOEL.

Hawaii was one of a handful of states that decreased their pre-k funding last year while overall other states' funding for pre-k programs increased by nearly \$767 million, or 12 percent over FY2015-15. This supplemental funding for EOEL is needed to restore and maintain the minimum required operations to carry out its duties and functions; however, HCAN also supports a planned expansion of public pre-k programs in Hawaii's DOE and public charter schools so eligible children have access to programs that help them prepare for and have a better shot at succeeding in school.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that members of the Senate Committee on Education pass HB 2266, HD1, to appropriate and restore operational funding for EOEL in the FY 2016-17 budget.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2266 HD 1 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EARLY
LEARNING**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2266 HD 1, which makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning and Early Learning Advisory Board for staffing, travel, and attendance at relevant conferences, as applicable.

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.

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.

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 25, 2016, 11:00 a.m. Room 308
by

Donald B. Young
Personal Testimony in Support

HB 2266 HD1 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EARLY LEARNING

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee on Finance

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 2266 HD1. My testimony is similar to that submitted to you in support of HB 1715 supporting public support for early learning. In order to address the needs in our community for quality early learning programs we must have the support at the top level of administration to ensure our commitments are indeed a priority. HB 2266 HD1 provides through appropriation that support.

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 early learning programs, I continue to believe it is the right thing to do and urge you to pass HB 2266 HD1 along with its appropriation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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.

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 25, 2016

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 2266 HD1 Relating to Early Learning Appropriations**

E ka Luna Ho'omalu Luke, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Nishimoto a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai 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 2266 HD1 relating to early learning makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning and Early Learning Advisory Board for staffing, travel, and attendance at relevant conferences, as applicable. We are writing to **support** 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 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 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 in the state of Hawai'i. 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia! No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.** Mahalo nui.

LATE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Finance Committee

Re: HB 2266, Relating to Making Appropriates for Early Learning – Support
Hearing February 25, 2016 at 11:00 AM, Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the chair of the State Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) composed of 19 public and private members representing state departments, the early learning community, philanthropy, and the State university system. The ELAB was established to advise the Executive Office on Early Learning and speaks as an independent voice on issues related to child development as they relate to health, safety and learning for children from 0 – 5.

The ELAB supports HB 2266 and sees the appropriations as critical to the work of the Executive Office on Early Learning if it is to fulfill its responsibilities to our *keiki*. The office is currently under-staffed with only two members and is in great need of clerical support as well as a data processing systems analyst, the former to address the day-to-day needs of the office while the latter position will enable the EOEL to gather/analyze the critical data needed to ascertain issues around pre-K needs, public capacity to meet them and to plan for a future that increases access and equity. This data will also be essential when seeking federal assistance and local philanthropic support.

ELAB would suggest changing the language in the bill to reflect that the \$28,800 amount is strictly for travel expenses and eliminate the reference to “conferences.” Travel expenses are for ELAB members from neighbor Islands to be able to attend both monthly board meetings and participate on subcommittees as needed to ensure all voices are heard.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I hope you will see the value in supporting this funding request for the EOEL and Hawaii’s *keiki*.

Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Advisory Board, Chair

LATE

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

Re: HB 2266, Relating to Making Appropriates for Early Learning – Support
Hearing February 08, 2016 at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 309

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

My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the chair of the State Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) composed of 19 public and private members representing state departments, the early learning community, philanthropy, and the State university system. The ELAB was established to advise the Executive Office on Early Learning and speaks as an independent voice on issues related to child development as they relate to health, safety and learning for children from 0 – 5.

The ELAB supports HB 2266 and sees the appropriations as critical to the work of the Executive Office on Early Learning if it is to fulfill its responsibilities to our *keiki*. The office is currently under-staffed with only two members and is in great need of clerical support as well as a data processing systems analyst, the former to address the day-to-day needs of the office while the latter position will enable the EOEL to gather/analyze the critical data needed to ascertain issues around pre-K needs, public capacity to meet them and to plan for a future that increases access and equity. This data will also be essential when seeking federal assistance and local philanthropic support.

ELAB would suggest changing the language in the bill to reflect that the \$28,800 amount is strictly for travel expenses and eliminate the reference to “conferences.” Travel expenses are for ELAB members from neighbor Islands to be able to attend both monthly board meetings and participate on subcommittees as needed to ensure all voices are heard.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I hope you will see the value in moving this legislation forward.

Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Advisory Board, Chair