

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

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

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FOR: HB2266, HD2 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EARLY LEARNING
DATE: Tuesday, March 29, 2016
TIME: 9:00 AM
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Interim Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Testimony in support of the intent of HB2266, HD2

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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 2266, HD2, "Making Appropriations for 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.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2266 HD2 MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EARLY
LEARNING**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2266 HD2, which makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning 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.

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Telephone: 808 926-1530
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Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

March 29, 2016

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support HB2266 HD2, which makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning for staffing and travel.

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 strongly believes in investing in early education and supported the establishment of the Public Preschool Program in the last legislative session. Presently, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Director is the only staff in the program and managing the program without support staff is extremely difficult. Therefore, we support the appropriation for additional staff. Additionally, we also believe that allocating travel for the Early Learning Advisory Board is appropriate as we are a statewide system that requires statewide communication. We hope to see the Public Preschool Program establish a strong foundation and grow in a manageable way. Support from the legislature for EOEL would give the office tools to achieve this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawaii Children's Action 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
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
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 () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*