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Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 11:00AM

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308

HB607 HD1– Relating to Early Learning

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) has 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 607, assuring that Neighbor Island counties of Hawai'i, Maui, and Kaua'i each have representatives that serve 3 year terms on the Early Learning Advisory Board. Maui County has demonstrated its commitment to early childhood education by establishing an Early Childhood Resource Coordinator position, and HAEYC encourages Hawai'i and Kaua'i Counties to consider the establishment of similar positions in their counties.

Equitable Neighbor Island representation is important in order to 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.



February 26, 2015

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 607 HD1:** Early Learning/Early Learning Advisory Board
Hearing: February 26, 2015 at 11 AM, Conference Room 308

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 607, HD1, which will allow a more balanced county representation on the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) which advises the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL).

Good Beginnings Alliance is an independent, community based nonprofit organization with the mission to build a unified voice educating and advocating for Hawai'i's children.

Balanced county representation which includes the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui is crucial to any state board or commission. Neighbor Island views and stories are a great benefit in the development of EOEL policy affecting young children and their families.

Each county has unique communities with unique needs for families and young children who reside there. It is important to include their stories so ELAB be more informed as they advise EOEL.

Good Beginnings Alliance is in strong support of this measure to amend Hawaii's current ELAB to include all neighbor island counties, Hawaii, Kauai and Maui.

For these reasons we respectfully request passage of this bill.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 7:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB607 on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM

HB607

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: and they should not have to PAY for their transportation to O'ahu if they must come to our island OR it should be mandatory that live streaming meetings be held.. We have the technology.

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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LATE

Testimony To
House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 26, 2015
11:00 am
Room 309

HB607 Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-chair Nishimoto and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 607, Relating to Early Learning. My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB).

On behalf of the ELAB, I am submitting this testimony urging the committee to approve of HB607 which provides for each Neighbor Island county to be represented on the Early Learning Advisory Board for a term of office of three years. It also includes funding to support their participation.

Currently only two Neighbor Island members serve on the ELAB and the Board feels having representation from all three would enhance our understanding of needs and how best to help support each. We know that each of our Islands is unique and has distinct characteristics that need to be considered as we continue our efforts to build a state-wide early childhood system. Having representation from each Island would make this process more inclusive and comprehensive.

The ELAB strongly supports this measure.

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