

LATE



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Date: February 3, 2016

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Education Committee

RE: **SB 2603 Relating to Early Learning**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Harimoto a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools. Senate Bill 2603 relating to early learning makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning and the 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! Mahalo nui.

LATE



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Senate Committee on Education
February 3, 2016, 11:15 PM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229

SB 2603– Relating to Early Learning

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** SB 2603 which makes appropriations to the Executive Office on Early Learning and the Early Learning Advisory Board for staffing, travel, and attendance at relevant conferences.

This measure is an important step 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 3, 2016

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To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

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

Re: **SB 2603 Making Appropriations for Early Learning – Support
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, February 3, 2016 – 1:15 P.M.**

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in strong support of SB 2603, 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.hawaiican.org/2016policyagenda>.

SB 2603 seeks to appropriate 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 executive office on early learning; and

(3) \$59,736 for the establishment of a data processing systems analyst VI position for the executive office on early learning.

Supplemental funding is 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 Senate Committee on Education pass SB 2603, to appropriate and restore operational funding for EOEL in the FY 2016-17 budget.

LATE

From:
To: Submitted testimony for SB2603 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM
Cc: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:14:23 PM
Subject:
Date:

SB2603

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for EDU on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is government waste. Stop spending money on things we don't need.

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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