

February 18, 2015

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair
Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 527:** Early Learning/Early Learning Advisory Board; Neighbor Island County Representation – Hearing: February 18, 2015 at 12:20 PM.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 527, 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.

Sincerely,

Deborah Zysman
Executive Director