

SB527

Measure Title: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Report Title: Early Learning Advisory Board; Neighbor Island County Representation

Description: Requires that each neighbor island county is represented on the early learning advisory board for a term of office of three years.

Companion: [HB607](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: EDU/PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): INOUYE, CHUN OAKLAND, GREEN, KEITH-AGARAN, KIDANI, RIVIERE, RUDERMAN, Baker, Gabbard, Galuteria, Ihara, Kahele, Shimabukuro, Slom, L. Thielen, Wakai

Sort by Date		Status Text
1/23/2015	S	Introduced.
1/26/2015	S	Passed First Reading.
1/26/2015	S	Referred to EDU/PSM, WAM.
2/12/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU/PSM has scheduled a public hearing on 02-18-15 1:20PM in conference room 229.

S = Senate | **H** = House | **D** = Data Systems | **\$** = Appropriation measure | **ConAm** = Constitutional Amendment



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: WEDESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015

RE: S.B. 527 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chairs Russell Ruderman and Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chairs Gil Riviere and Breene Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports S.B. 527**, relating to early learning.

HSTA is an advocate for “community collaboration” to “assure quality public education”. The changes recommended in **S.B. 527** increase the advisory board by one person yet provides the opportunity for all Neighbor Islands to be represented on the Early Learning Advisory Board. HSTA believes this one addition will provide a more comprehensive discussion regarding best practices in early learning.

HSTA has long supported the position that, “early education programs should be provided through the public school system, including child development...and should be aimed at equipping the preschooler for a successful kindergarten experience.

HSTA is in **support of S.B. 527** on behalf of our 13,500 statewide public and charter school teachers.

Date: February 17, 2015

To: EDU/PSM Committee Members

Re: Strong Support for SB527, Relating to Early Learning

Dear Senator s Kidani , Harimoto, Espero and Baker,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB527**. It is vitally important that each neighbor island county is represented on the Early Learning Advisory Board for a term of office of three years.

Each county has unique communities with varied needs. Therefore it is essential that every neighbor island county is consistently represented on the ELAB as development of the Early Learning System progresses, to ensure that all families of young children have affordable access to quality learning and care opportunities, no matter where they live.

Living on Maui for the past 42 years, I've raised my own children and worked with 1000s of other parents raising theirs, and what I've learned is that families' needs on the neighbor islands get lost in the too often "Oahu Centric" decision making processes. This is a great opportunity to change that pattern. Mahalo to the sponsors of this very important bill.

It is necessary to include funding for transportation costs for outer island ELAB members in the legislation.

Sincerely,

Melanie Padgett

Project Specialist

Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center 251 Napua St. Wailuku HI 96793

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Committee on Education
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229

SB 527 – 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 Hawai'i's children (0-8) and their families.

HAEYC supports SB 527, 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 this 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 18, 2015

To: Senator Will Espero, Chair senate Committee on Public safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on Education and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: GG Weisenfeld

Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: SB 527 Relating to Early Learning g

Chair Espero and Chair Kidani and Members of the Committees:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting testimony regarding SB 527 Relating to Early Learning whose purpose is to require that each neighbor island county be represented on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

We are both private citizens who are interested in advancing early learning in our state.

We have a few concerns about expanding the Advisory Board. The Board has an important role in advocating and monitoring the state's efforts to advance early childhood programs, coordination and funding. Its purpose and functions are set forth in Act 178 SLH 2012. The Board currently has nineteen (19) members of which two are appointed by the Hawaii Council of Mayors.

Our first concern is that the board should not become so large that it becomes unable to perform its role effectively or efficiently. Act 178 SLH 2012 sets forth the responsibilities of the Advisory board: "(1) Advising the office (Executive Office on Early Learning) on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; (2) Providing recommendations to the office on improving quality, availability, and coordination of early childhood care and education programs; (3) Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and (4) Being an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning."

Our second concern is that if the Board is expanded to include each neighbor island county then the City and County of Honolulu should also appoint a member. In addition consideration should be given to requiring that appropriate military representation be added to the Board. If more members are added to the Advisory Board the appropriation to the Executive Office on Early Learning needs to be increased to cover the travel costs of members from the neighbor islands.

We urge the Committee to carefully weigh the size of the Board, its ability to function effectively and efficiently when deciding on the number of members.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and concerns.

GG Weisenfeld

Wimmie Wong Lui

Testimony:

Date: February 16, 2015

To: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Education

Re: Strong Support for SB 527, Relating to Early Learning

Hrg: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 1:20 pm, Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB 527**. I strongly support the requirement that each neighbor island county is represented on the early learning advisory board for a term of office of three years.

As an active member of the Early Learning Advisory Board for the past 6 years, from Maui, appointed by the Hawaii Council of Mayors, I have witnessed the challenge of the Neighbor Islands input around the development of an early learning and care system. Each Neighbor Island County (Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii) brings a unique perspective to the conversation, and thus should have continuous representation.

I respectfully request that the committee members consider amending the SB 527 slightly by inserting an allocation of funding to cover travel expenses from the neighbor islands to Oahu. Face to face representation and discussion seems to be most effective form of participation in the early learning advisory board meetings.

Please help the neighbor island families with young children have representation on the Early Learning Advisory Board so the issues, solutions, impact and environment unique to the Neighbor Islands is continuously brought to the discussion.

Mahalo,

Ka'ina Bonacorsi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB527 on Feb 18, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 8:51:30 AM

SB527

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for EDU/PSM on Feb 18, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments: We need support from all counties and stakeholders. Do they have to pay their own way to O`ahu? They should not have to do so.

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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