

**Written Only**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/02/2015  
**Time:** 09:00 AM  
**Location:** 211  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0843 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

**Purpose of Bill:** Amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 843. The Department recognizes the importance of early childhood education, as well as its impact upon our children's future outcomes and the state's economic growth.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date of Hearing: 3-2-2015  
Time: 9:00am  
Location: Conference Room 211

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization  
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

SB778, SD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION: **STRONG Support**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in **strong support of SB778, SD1.**

Our families in Hawaiian medium education very much appreciate that this bill will ensure fair, reliable and valid assessments in Hawaiian, an official language of Hawai'i and the language of instruction for students in ka papahana kaiapuni.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of SB778, SD1.**

Mahalo,

M. 'Ekekela Aiona  
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo  
96 Pu'uhonu Place  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 935-4304



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Monday, March 2, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 843 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 843, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, 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.



March 2, 2015

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for SB 843**: RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
Hearing March 2, 2015 at 9:00 AM, Conference Room 211

---

Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of SB 843, an important housekeeping measure relating to early childhood education.

This measure will correct two critical issues:

1) It defines "early childhood education" as "a developmentally appropriate early childhood development program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten." This is important to ensure proper boundaries between the role of Executive Office on Early Learning and the role of Department of Education for K-12 instruction.

2) It clearly defines that the Executive Office on Early Learning has the authority to use and expend federal funds for the purpose of early childhood education.

These housekeeping measures are critical to insure that the Executive Office on Early Learning is able to function effectively and serve our youngest children.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members of the committee to pass this bill.



841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

March 2, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB843, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

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.

We support all the changes being proposed in SB843 relating to early education, in particular, the change in the definition of "early childhood education" to mean a developmentally appropriate early childhood development and education program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten. We understand that currently there are some definitions that say from birth to age eight, which becomes confusing because it overlaps with the Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade (K-12) system. The change would allow clarity in statute, and allow for more efficient and effective handling of early education programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our 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  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School 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  
\*Kaho'omiki  
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.*



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

**Board of Directors**

*Howard Garval, Chair  
Joanne Lundstrom, Vice Chair  
Jerry Rauckhorst, Treasurer  
Liz Chun, Secretary  
Susan Chandler  
Victor Geminiani  
Marya Grambs  
Katherine Keir  
Jeeyun Lee  
John McComas  
Carol Morimoto  
Robert Naniole  
Darcie Scharfenstein  
Alan Shinn*

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW  
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Monday, March 2, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211**

**Testimony in support of SB843, Relating to Early Childhood Education.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB843, which is an important housekeeping measure relating to early childhood education. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including low-income families with young children in the home.

SB843 will address two critical issues:

- Defines “early childhood education” as “a developmentally appropriate early childhood development program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.” This is important to ensure proper boundaries between the role of Executive Office on Early Learning and the role of the Department of Education for K-12 instruction.
- Clearly defines that the Executive Office on Early Learning has the authority to use and expend federal funds for the purpose of early childhood education.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support for this bill. These measures are critical to ensure that the Executive Office on Early Learning functions effectively to serve Hawaii's keiki. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).



**SB843**

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

March 2, 2015

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Ways and Means Committee and Members of the  
Ways and Means Committee  
From: GG Weisenfeld  
Wimmie Wong Lui  
RE: S.B. No. 843, Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting written testimony regarding S.B. No. 843, Relating to Early Childhood Education, the purpose of which is to amend or repeal provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

We are both private citizens who are interested in advancing early learning in our state. This bill creates a definition of “early childhood education” that is consistent with the early learning system the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is tasked with developing pursuant to Section 302L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The bill ensures the term “early childhood education” is used consistently throughout statute.

S.B. 843 also clarifies that the mission of EOEL is the education of children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten, while the mission of the Hawaii Department of Education is that of children from kindergarten through grade 12.

**We are therefore in support of S.B. No. 843.** We urge the committee to pass this bill, moving it forward for further consideration.

Thank you.

GG Weisenfeld  
193 Pauahilani Place  
Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui  
724 Prospect Street  
Honolulu HI 96813