

SB863

Measure Title: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.
Report Title: Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program
Description: Establishes the executive office on early learning prekindergarten program, to be administered by the executive office on early learning and provided through public schools, including charter schools.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: EDU, WAM
Introducer(s): KIDANI

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/23/2015	S	Introduced.
1/26/2015	S	Passed First Reading.
1/28/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
2/10/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 02-13-15 1:30PM in conference room 229.

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



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

Date: 02/13/2015
Time: 01:30 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0863 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the executive office on early learning prekindergarten program, to be administered by the executive office on early learning and provided through public schools, including charter schools.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education recognizes the importance of early childhood education, as well as its impact upon our children's future outcomes and the state's economic growth. We offer the following comments and amendment suggestions.

Our mission is to ensure Hawaii's public school students receive a quality education. As such, the Department is tasked with providing education for students in grades K-12 and its expertise and priorities lies therein. Furthermore, our current infrastructure with regards to early childhood recruitment, certification, capacity-building and resources to lead and support early learning is limited and underdeveloped.

The Department recognizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) as possessing the early childhood expertise, including but not limited to comprehensive early childhood development and learning. Therefore, any early childhood programs should be under the management and operational oversight of the EOEL.

We respectfully request that the language in this measure (p.19, lines 10-11, Section 2 (a)(1)) be revised to read, as follows: "Be provided through ~~public schools~~ the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) who may partner with the department of education,...."

Further, additional language (p. 21, lines 16-17, Section 2 (h)) be amended to reflect the following: "The department of education and any charter school existing pursuant to chapter 302D ~~shall~~ may use available classrooms for public preschool classrooms statewide".

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 12, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 863 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 13, 2015; 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 863 is to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through public schools, including charter schools.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The DHS defers to the Department of Education (DOE), the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL), and the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission on operational and implementation issues. The DHS offers the following comments.

Child care licensing. For working families who need child care before or after the DOE prekindergarten (EOEL PreK) program begins and ends, the child care program may need to be licensed by the DHS if the DOE does not directly operate the child care program.

Preschool Open Doors. Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established the existing child care assistance program, Preschool Open Doors (POD), as the statewide school readiness

program and is administered by the DHS. Act 169 is codified as section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The POD program currently serves low to moderate income families whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.

The DHS expanded the POD program this state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 to cover almost 1,300 children. The total budget for SFY 2015 is \$7.6 million (with \$1.6 million in the DHS' base budget, HMS-305). The POD expansion funds in the amount of \$6,000,000 were provided for SFY 2015 only to serve up to additional 1,050 eligible children. Until SFY 2014, the POD program served 240-260 children utilizing \$1.6 million in the base budget. Families, whose children are enrolled in classrooms on DOE public school campuses or at a public charter school, are not eligible for POD program services.

DHS requests clarification on several issues as the DOE PreK program relates to the POD program. The EOEL PreK program proposed by SB 844 and SB 863 appears to intend to serve all 4 year olds who will be entering Kindergarten in the following year.

If the intent of these bills is to serve ALL 4 year olds who will be entering Kindergarten in the following year, then the POD program may no longer be needed for the 4 year olds, and DHS recommends amending section 346-181, HRS. However, if this is the case, DHS foresees a transition period where POD and EOEL PreK co-exist as DOE implements the EOEL PreK program.

If the EOEL PreK program cannot serve ALL 4 year olds, then POD could continue, and DOE would need to work with DHS to identify those communities with few private preschools to increase the number of 4 year olds who have access to some kind of PreK or school readiness program.

We raise this concern because the measures do not propose that the EOEL PreK or registration in another school readiness program be mandatory for 4 year olds. As proposed, parents retain the choice to not enroll their children in the proposed EOEL PreK program and,

instead, may choose to enroll their children in the POD program, or seek Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funding (child care subsidies) to send their children to private child care programs.

The DHS anticipates that families, who will be eligible for the POD program, more than likely, will prefer to enroll their children in the EOEL PreK program run by DOE with an expectation that children will be able to transition to the Kindergarten at the same school. Furthermore, these families would prefer to enroll their children in a program with “education” focus over the “high quality child care” settings of POD.

Another issue that needs some attention is the ability of the families to apply and receive a geographic exception to enroll their children in the EOEL PreK program and continue the same through Kindergarten. We defer to the DOE for its policy regarding geographic exceptions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



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
Kim Harman
Katherine Keir
Jeeyun Lee
John McComas
Robert Naniole
Darcie Scharfenstein
Alan Shinn*

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Education

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: Senate Committee on Education
Friday, February 13, 2015

Testimony in support of SB863, Relating to Public Early Childhood Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of SB863, which would establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program. 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.

Education can provide a leveling of socio-economic impacts experienced by children from low-income families. These families are dealing with the challenges of Hawaii's high cost of living realities and are focused on providing the necessities, like food and housing. As a result children from low-income families are less likely to have the "extra" resources necessary to access high quality early childhood education programs. As studies have clearly shown, investing in a high-quality early childhood education will result in higher levels of educational attainment and stronger social and economic well-being. A strong start with early education provides a bridge to a different future for these children.

An Early Learning Prekindergarten Program would provide children in low-income families with access to high-quality educational programming that would otherwise be out of reach. Without this access children from low-income families are less likely to have the strong start to their education that will result in providing a bridge to a successful college experience/career that will change their family's financial/social tree for generations to come.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support for this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council

919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101

Honolulu, HI 96814

Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129

email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

February 13, 2015

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Dr. Tammy Bopp
Dr. Robert Campbell
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Jenny Gong
Ms. Natalie Haggerty
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Valerie Johnson
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Zaidarene Place
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Rosie Rowe
Dr. Patricia Sheehy
Mr. Tom Smith
Ms. Lani Solomona
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Dr. Amy Wiech
Ms. Cari White
Ms. Jasmine Williams
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 863 - Relating to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** the intent of SB 863 that establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through public schools, including charter schools.

SEAC concurs with the program focus on four year olds, and in particular, underserved and at-risk children, who may lag behind their peers without quality early learning supports. Quality intervention at an early age can reduce the need for more intensive interventions, including special education and related services, in subsequent years.

SEAC also believes that increasing the availability of early learning programs that meet the high quality standards set by the Office of Early Learning Prekindergarten Program will create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

We recommend for your consideration a change in the term *family engagement* to *family partnership* and the inclusion of a definition of *family partnership*. The Executive Office on Early Learning created the **Hawaii Family Partnership Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings** in 2013 to promote high standards and shared expectations for families and staff of early childhood programs. The Guidelines are also intended to align with the Family-School Partnership Standards being proposed for implementation by the Department of Education.



Testimony on SB 863
February 13, 2015
Page 2

These Family Partnership Guidelines can be found at <http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Family-Partnership-Guidelines.pdf>.

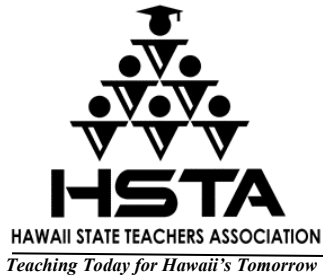
Specifically, we recommend that you consider the following changes:

- 1) Substitute the term *family partnership* for the term *family engagement* on page 20, line 10, (3).
- 2) Substitute the definition of *family partnership* as follows for the definition of *family engagement* found on page 22, lines 7-12: “‘Family partnership’ means practices that follow the key principles of welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supporting success, speaking up for every child, sharing decision-making and partnering with the community.”

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

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

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015

RE: S.B. 863 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

The Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chair Breene Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports S.B. 863**, relating to public early childhood education.

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 has been in support of this position since 1987.

HSTA supports the Early Learning Pre-kindergarten Program, which according to S.B. 844 will be administered by the Executive Office on Learning and provided through the Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

HSTA submits our testimony in **support of S.B. 863** on behalf of our 13,500+ public and charter statewide school teachers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Friday, February 13, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

RE: SENATE BILL 863 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 863, which establishes the executive office on early learning prekindergarten program, to be administered by the executive office on early learning and provided through public schools, including charter schools.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 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 establishment of the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning is another necessary and positive step in establishing a foundation for early learning programs in our state.

The Chamber believes that this measure must be in place to provide services to children before they enter kindergarten. Providing family child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed delivery early learning system is critical in ensuring school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to entering kindergarten.

Also, 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.



Ho`okāko`o Corporation

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani , Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Testimony In Support of SB 863 Relating to Early Childhood Education

Honorable Chair Kidani,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB 863. The Ho`okāko`o Corporation is committed to excellence in public education through our work with conversion charter schools, which educate nearly 20% of Hawaii's charter school student population in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12.

HC wishes to express support for SB 863.

Ho`okāko`o supports the establishment of the executive office on early learning prekindergarten program to be administered by the executive office and provided through public schools, including public charter schools.

A longtime champion of early childhood education, Ho`okāko`o charter schools have established two prekindergarten programs at Kamaile Academy in Wai`anae and Kualapu`u School on Moloka`i which serve their districts.

Our research by independent evaluators has shown that these students, by in large, outperform their counterparts who did not benefit from early years education. Therefore, children that have had prekindergarten leave our charter schools better prepared for their middle and high school experience, many of whom transition on to DOE schools.

Research also shows that these students are more likely to continue their education, which is critical in our at-risk communities where the school completion rates and college-going rates are historically low.

If this bill passes, we would like to be considered among those public charter schools deliver prekindergarten to children in our communities. Our programs, which have already been in existence, have been evidenced to link high-quality standards to educational outcomes for our students as demonstrated by our achievement data in elementary and middle school.

Ho`okāko`o Corporation (HC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to manage and operate public conversion charter schools in Hawai`i. HC's vision is to enhance educational outcomes and empower communities, especially for native Hawaiian and underserved children, by creating high quality public schools of choice as defined by high levels of student achievement, innovative programs, visionary leadership and engaged communities. Located in Waianae on Oahu, and on the islands of Hawai`i and Molokai, HC schools collectively serve over 1,570 students representing nearly

15% of all public charter school students in Hawai'i. Approximately 76% of the students are low income, 10% are English Language Learners, 11% are in Special Education, 15% are known to be homeless, and 68% are of Hawaiian ancestry. All three Ho'okako'o schools have received Accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Megan McCorrison', written in a cursive style.

Megan McCorrison, Executive Director
Ho'okako'o Corporation

February 13, 2015

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

From: GG Weisenfeld
Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: SB 863 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education

Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting testimony regarding SB 863 Relating to Early Childhood Education whose purpose is to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through the Department of Education public school and public charter schools.

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

We are pleased with the EOEL Prekindergarten program that began serving children during the 2014-15 school year. The teachers have been able to implement high-quality standards, including using individual child assessments, engaging families, and aligning their curriculum with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, all of which are linked to positive child outcomes.

We believe that the Executive Office on Early Learning should administer the program as the services are provided through the Department of Education public schools and charter schools. **We therefore support the public early childhood education program described in SB 863 but with one reservation.** We are concerned that there is not a priority for children who are underserved or at-risk. We know all children benefit from a high-quality early education program, however we feel that the publicly funded program should first target those children whose families cannot afford to pay. We prefer the language in SB 844.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and concerns.

GG Weisenfeld
193 Pauahilani Place
Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui
724 Prospect Street
Honolulu HI 96813

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB863 on Feb 13, 2015 13:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 5:36:01 PM

SB863

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for EDU on Feb 13, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please oppose this bill. Hawaii already has the Open Doors program, which oversees preschools. Therefore, not only is the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program redundant and a waste of taxpayer money, but the sole purpose of which appears to be to open the door to public funding of charter schools. Hawaii residents should not be forced to pay preschoolers' tuitions to charter schools. Studies show many, if not most, are religious in nature. The bill would therefore be in violation of the state's church/state separation guarantees and would open the door to lawsuits at taxpayer expense. Public funding should instead be used to expand existing public preschool programs under the Department of Education's Pre-plus programs and MEO Head Start.

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

Testimony To
The Senate Committee on Education

Friday, February 13, 2015
1:30 pm
Conference Room 229

Re: SB 844 – Related to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a recently retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Over the past 10 years, I have served as a member of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and the Early Learning Advisory Board. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 863, A Bill for an Act Relating to Early Childhood Education which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program.

The bill seeks to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) prekindergarten program to be administered by the EOEL and provided through public schools, including charter schools. Both my own experience as a Head of School and the abundance of research on school success confirm the value of high quality early childhood education for all children. Benefits are noted in school readiness, general school success and long-term quality of life and contributions as community members. In addition, dollars invested in early education pay dividends for communities as a whole by reducing costs for remediation in schools, reduction in crime and welfare expenses along with reduced homelessness and substance abuse. A study in Hawaii completed in 2008 by Good Beginnings Alliance determined that for every dollar invested in early learning a four dollar plus return could be expected.

This bill provides for a prekindergarten program built around widely accepted standards of high quality which are research-based, developmentally appropriate and identified with better outcomes for children. I would hope that passage of this bill would continue efforts to increase access to quality early education. We know that all children, no matter their circumstances, can benefit from early childhood education. And, there is growing concern that our lower middle income families will not be able to provide an early learning experience for their children unless a statewide system is implemented. Such a system will be voluntary and also culturally sensitive offering choices to families for placement of their children. Let this be a building block for future growth.

I urge the committee to consider the bill favorably.

Robert G. Peters, EdD