



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 1, 2017

TO: The Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 388 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**
HB 578 – RELATING TO PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS PROGRAM

Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of these measures provided that passage of either does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget and existing operations. The DHS offers comments, in particular, if the Legislature expands the eligible population to the Preschool Open Doors Program (POD), DHS will need adequate administrative resources to implement the program changes, and sufficient time to amend relevant rules, re-procure for services, and address operational needs such as modifications to the IT system.

PURPOSE: The purpose of HB 388 is to reestablish eligibility for the preschool open doors program to 3- and 4- year old children prior to entering kindergarten.

The purpose of HB 578 is to expand the qualifying age for the preschool open doors program to children four years old and younger.

The POD program assists low and moderate income families who are least able to afford preschool and provide their children with the opportunity to be ready for kindergarten by providing child care subsidies for preschool costs. Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2013, established the POD program as the statewide school readiness

program and appropriated \$6 million in general funds for state fiscal year (FY) 2015 for program and administrative costs, including 3 temporary positions. Act 191, SLH 2015, appropriated \$6 million in general funds for FY 2016, however the legislature did not provide administrative funding or temporary positions. Act 124, SLH 2016, allocated an additional \$10 million to DHS base budget for a total of \$11.6 million for FY 2017 for POD subsidies. Act 124, SLH 2016, also provided allocations for administrative costs, including 1 permanent position.

DHS provides the following comments:

1. Provision of necessary administrative resources for DHS – staffing, Executive Budget request.

To continue the current POD program, the Governor's current budget request for POD includes a full year of funding for FYs 2018 and 2019 for the 1 permanent position established through Act 124, SLH 2016. DHS requires the full time position and administrative funds to effectively monitor and implement POD at FY 17 levels, and to provide on-going review of contract deliverables and performance measures.

Without the appropriate level of administrative resources, it will be difficult to implement the program as the legislature intends; expanding the program population without addressing administrative resources will be problematic.

HB 388 as drafted would expand the POD program to serve 3 year old children, as well as 4 year old children. HB 388 also would provide an additional \$12 million in POD subsidies to families for FYs 2018 and 2019. However, no appropriation for administrative costs is currently included in HB 388.

HB 578 as drafted would expand the POD program to serve children younger than 4 year old children, as well as 4 year old children. However, there is no additional appropriation to fund the program which may result in a waiting list.

2. Unintended consequence: decreasing services to 4 year olds.

DHS is concerned that allowing families with younger children to participate in the POD program may have unintended consequences of decreasing services to the 4 year old

population. Recall, that with the change of entry age to kindergarten,¹ to ensure learning opportunity and improve kindergarten readiness, the Legislature identified the 4 year old population as the priority of Act 169, SLH 2013.

Currently, there are 1,751 4 year old children participating in the POD program. Kindergarten enrollment is approximately 16,000 children each year. POD serves about 10% of the population of children who are eligible for kindergarten in the following year.

For HB 388 and HB 578 as drafted, if a child younger than 4 years old is underserved or at-risk, the younger child will have priority for POD services over a 4 year old child who is not underserved or at-risk, which runs the risk that the 4 year old does not have the learning opportunity as set forth in Act 169, SLH 2013.

HB 578 does not provide an increased appropriation for POD subsidies, yet the number of eligible children may increase by an estimated 400%, assuming a steady birth rate each year for children birth through 3 years of age. To be viable and avoid large waiting lists, funding for POD subsidies would need to increase.

3. Technical concern regarding ages of children that can be served by a preschool.

Over time, different child care and preschool programs were created to serve specific needs or populations. The enabling statutes created specific mandates, administrative rules and licensing provisions were created to implement and administer the multiple changes.

DHS needs clarification whether POD services can be provided to children less than 2 years of age, as there are separate licensing requirements between group child care centers and group child care homes (i.e. preschools) versus the licensing requirements for infant and toddler child care centers which serve children ages 6 weeks to 36 months in age.

The current POD program only allows POD services at group child care centers and group child care home.

¹ Act 178, SLH 2012, repealed junior kindergarten programs at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, and beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, required students to be at least five years of age on July 31 of the school year in order to attend kindergarten.

4. Provision of necessary administrative resources for DHS – funding.

Regarding HB 388, DHS estimates that the additional \$12 million in subsidies could serve another 1,855 children, for a total of 3,655 children with \$23.6 million in POD subsidies.

DHS respectfully notes that doubling the amount of POD subsidies to be awarded by DHS will increase the administrative oversight needed for the program. DHS estimates that \$411,500 each for FYs 2018 and 2019 to implement the program at the level of additional funding and to expend the full amount in the appropriate fiscal year.

Administrative costs are required to cover 1 additional position to support the permanent POD position, IT data system modifications, increased cost for the POD contracted services, and other related administrative costs.

The current POD contract would need to be competitively re-procured for the appropriate level of services expected, as a \$12 million increase in POD subsidies administered would be a significant change to the contract service specifications.

Also, expanding the eligibility requirements for the POD program will require amendments to the existing Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 17-799, adopted pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

5. Provision of necessary administrative resources for DHS – staffing.

Staffing support required to make simultaneous changes for the POD program to administrative rules, operational procedures, IT data system modifications, and re-procurement of the POD contracted service is greater than the current staffing level of the DHS Child Care Program Office (CCPO).

CCPO is in the process of implementing significant changes to both the DHS child care licensing and federally funded child care subsidy programs, as required by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014, Public Law 113-186, and 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 98. Compliance is required for Hawaii to continue to receive approximately \$22 million in federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families.

The CCDBG Act of 2014 reauthorized the CCDF program and made expansive changes focused on protecting the health and safety of children in care, making the program more family-friendly by streamlining child care subsidy eligibility policies, ensuring parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them, and improving the overall quality of early learning and afterschool programs. The deadline for DHS to complete all of the required changes for the federal CCDF grants is September 30, 2018.

6. DHS requests an effective date of July 1, 2018 or later.

The statutory changes being considered, will require changes to administrative rules and operations, all while DHS implements the current program and moves the state into compliance with requirements of the CCDBG Act described above.

POD is currently accepting applications until March 31, 2017 for services in the 2017-2018 POD year. If either HB 388 or HB 578 (or companion measures: SB 181 and SB 497) were to pass as drafted with the Legislature's expectation of implementation effective FY 2018, given the current program demands and compliance efforts, DHS would be unable to modify the required IT data system, program eligibility, and administrative rule changes effective July 1, 2017. DHS respectfully requests a one year (or more) delay to the effective date to give DHS time to complete the necessary administrative and operational changes needed to change the POD eligibility requirements and delivery systems.

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

HUStestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2017 2:07 PM
To: HUStestimony
Cc: cchaudron08@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB388 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM

HB388

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hi, my name is Camila Chaudron, and I am a constituent from the Manoa/Makiki area. I support this measure. The sooner that children have access to enriched environments, the better it is for their overall education, health, and development. Thank you for supporting this important investment in our state's future. Mahalo.

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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HUStestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 8:29 PM
To: HUStestimony
Cc: arce101@outlook.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB388 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM

HB388

Submitted on: 1/26/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Arce	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have worked in the early education field since 2006 (about 9 of those years as a preschool teacher) and have seen the major progress a child makes from birth through five. I have seen the gains that children make who start their path to learning early and I have seen the struggles that children who start later run into compared to their peers who had an earlier start. When I hear the statistic that 90% of brain growth is done before age 5 it seems almost common sense to me. But I had been a preschool teacher for nearly 9 years and have first hand knowledge of this. According to Hawaii Children's Action Network, children who don't receive quality early education are: 25% more likely to drop out of school 40% more likely to become a teen parent 50% more likely to be placed in special education 60% more likely to never attend college 70% more likely to be arrested for a violent crime I support HB 388 because it extends access to education for children who are in our most vulnerable communities. We owe it to them to give them a fighting chance so they can crawl out of poverty. If we do not give our keiki the tools to succeed then we cannot be surprised when they don't. I urge you to pass this measure.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Melanie Padgett](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:08:39 PM

From: melanieandjamie@live.com <Melanie Padgett>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

Hawaii ranks second to last out of the most affordable states in the nation. Childcare is generally the second largest expense in family budgets after housing cost, averaging about \$8,040 per year. For children under two years that cost is generally much higher. The average POD subsidy is \$540/month to families with a median annual income of \$33,000 in 2015.

As of February 1, 2016, 2,213 applications were received for the Preschool Open Doors program, which provides subsidies for tuition assistance for families earning up to 142% over poverty line. As of the same date, only 1,156 children were being served. This is an opportunity to improve the chances for Hawaii's children to succeed by increasing the reach of the program.

By expanding the age range, it will provide more low- to moderate-income parents, especially single parents, the opportunity to pursue higher education, training, or work as well as better prepare students to succeed in school. Preschool Open Doors promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children and school readiness in our state, where only 14.5% of children display comprehensive readiness for kindergarten.

Sincerely,

Melanie Padgett

Project Specialist Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center

Pukalani

Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Cc: lho@hawaiipublicpolicy.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB388 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:47:11 AM

HB388

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathy Murphy	HAEYC	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.

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Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

January 31, 2017

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

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

Re: **HB 388 – Relating to Education**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 1, 2017, 9:30 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 388 – Relating to Education.

HCAN supports the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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By expanding the age range, it will provide more low- to moderate-income parents, especially single parents, the opportunity to pursue higher education, training, or work as well as better prepare students to succeed in school. Preschool Open Doors promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children and school readiness in our state, where only 14.5% of children display comprehensive readiness for kindergarten.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. 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 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to pass this bill.

From: [Vanessa Uddipa](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:53:08 PM

From: v.uddipa@gmail.com <Vanessa Uddipa>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Vanessa Uddipa

Receptionist/Mother of 3

Kahului

Hawaii

From: [Angeli Joy Villon](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:53:31 PM

From: ajmvx3@gmail.com <Angeli Joy Villon>

Message:

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Sincerely,

Angeli Joy Villon

Concierge

Kahului

Hawaii

From: [Bernard Uy](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:55:38 PM

From: bernard@walltowall.com <Bernard Uy>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Bernard Uy

Kailua

Hawaii

From: [Judith Clark](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:55:41 PM

From: jclark@hysn.org <Judith Clark>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Judith Clark

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [Troy Abraham](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:58:54 PM

From: tabraham08@gmail.com <Troy Abraham>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Troy Abraham

Hilo

Hawaii

From: [Kory Payne](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:03:03 PM

From: kpayne@hawaii-can.org <Kory Payne>

Message:

Mahalo

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Kory Payne

HCAN Field Coordinator

Waialua

Hawaii

From: [Shay Chan Hodges](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:09:47 PM

From: shay.chanhodges@gmail.com <Shay Chan Hodges>

Message:

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Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

Author/Writer/Advocate

Haiku

Hawaii

From: [Michelle Gray](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:13:23 PM

From: michelleplusnumbers@gmail.com <Michelle Gray>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Michelle Gray

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [Springer Kaye](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:17:06 PM

From: springerkaye@yahoo.com <Springer Kaye>

Message:

On the combined income of a teacher and a biologist, our family could not afford preschool for our two oldest children. We cut work hours, ran a crazy schedule of shifting the kids from friends to part time babysitters to occasional relatives...until I finally quit my job. I lost four years of career advancement, and four years of retirement contributions. I'd like to know how much that sets me back over a lifetime! Because my husband was a teacher, and we lived simply, we could (just) get by for a few years on one income, increasing our debt, and working odd jobs. I thought we did OK, preparing the best we could, two well educated parents who read to their toddlers...until we enrolled my youngest in preschool, and I learned what my two older boys missed. When I think about families that have far fewer resources than we did, and can't afford preschool, I can't imagine how their kids are supposed to be ready for school. I wonder how lack of preparedness in rural East Hawaii affected other students in kindergarten, how it set them back, and whether they have yet caught up. Your support of this bill is greatly appreciated.

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Springer Kaye

Manager

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [Sherrie Galdeira](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:35:42 PM

From: sgaldeira@gmail.com <Sherrie Galdeira>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Sherrie Galdeira

Business Owner

Hilo

Hawaii

From: [Kathleen Wescott](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:42:47 PM

From: jandkaloha@aol.com <Kathleen Wescott>

Message:

Do the right thing!

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Kathleen Wescott

Taxpayer

Honolulu

From: [Scott Euken](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:34:26 PM

From: seuken@aol.com <Scott Euken>

Message:

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Sincerely,

Scott Euken

Self Employed

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: [Heather Thomas](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:13:58 PM

From: sausagem@hotmail.com <Heather Thomas>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Heather Thomas

Mililani

Hawaii

From: [Susan Hiraoka](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:01:04 PM

From: srbrink@aol.com <Susan Hiraoka>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Susan Hiraoka

Makawao

Hawaii

From: [Micaela Lozano](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32:31 PM

From: mickeyjazzz@yahoo.com <Micaela Lozano>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Micaela Lozano

Wahiawa

From: [Diane Brandon](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:29:45 PM

From: nslmrd@hawaii.rr.com <Diane Brandon>

Message:

All of society benefits by the education of children, and the earlier we start the more effective the education is.

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Diane Brandon

Substitute Teacher

Waianae

Hawaii

From: [Roma Johnson](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 7:32:15 AM

From: romaj@hawaii.rr.com <Roma Johnson>

Message:

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Sincerely,

Roma Johnson

Retired speech pathologist

Kailua-Kona

From: [Ashley De Coligny](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:09:46 AM

From: ashleyut@hotmail.com <Ashley De Coligny>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Ashley De Coligny

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: [Diane Arconado](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:45:37 AM

From: dijaco888@hawaii.rr.com <Diane Arconado>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Diane Arconado

Clerical

Wailuku

Hawaii

From: [Susan Merrill](#)
To: [HUSTestimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:14:00 AM

From: pcdcwaianae@yahoo.com <Susan Merrill>

Message:

Aloha, The Parent Child Development Center is an early intervention program serving children 0-3years with special needs on the Wai`anae Coast. In the past few years, many of our three year old children fell through the educational gap, they not eligible for the DOE special education preschool but were not quite developmentally ready, and families were unable to afford preschool rates. Our staff of social workers and therapists-OT, PT, SLP, Special Ed Teacher, had concerns and were worried about these three year old children who needed more experiences which a preschool could have provided. These preschool experiences are necessary to better build the foundations of emotional/interpersonal and educational success for the young child in preparation for entering the elementary school system. Mahalo for your consideration. Susan Merrill M.Ed

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Susan Merrill

Program Director

Wai`anae

Hawaii

From: [Jozette Momoa Smythe](mailto:Jozette.Momoa.Smythe)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:27:41 AM

From: jozette@mfss.org <Jozette Momoa Smythe>

Message:

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Jozette Momoa Smythe

Youth Services Facilitator

Haiku

Hawaii

From: [Douglas Mersberg](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:41:40 AM

From: wcecs1@hawaiiantel.net <Douglas Mersberg>

Message:

Waianae Coast Early Childhood Services has been providing preschool services to children on the Waianae Coast since 1973. Our elementary school principals have stated that students are entering kindergarten significantly behind in their school readiness skills. An important way to address this problem is to provide an opportunity for those students to be able to attend preschool from the age of three years old.

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Sincerely,

Douglas Mersberg

Executive Director

Waianae

Hawaii

From: [Melissa Anne Wong](#)
To: [HUSTestimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:50:39 AM

From: dakawaii1@gmail.com <Melissa Anne Wong>

Message:

My daughter is turning 3 years old this year, and I don't know how I am going to afford preschool for 2 years. However, I know to importance of early education for our keiki, and we shouldn't allow families to go more into debt just so they can attend preschool!

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Melissa Anne Wong

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: [Billy Henson](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:56:02 AM

From: wesleychildrensprogram@yahoo.com <Billy Henson>

Message:

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Sincerely,

Billy Henson

Director

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [Sharla Sanborn](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:06:10 AM

From: sharlam808@gmail.com <Sharla Sanborn>

Message:

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By expanding the age range, it will provide more low- to moderate-income parents, especially single parents, the opportunity to pursue higher education, training, or work as well as better prepare students to succeed in school. Preschool Open Doors promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development of young children and school readiness in our state, where only 14.5% of children display comprehensive readiness for kindergarten.

Sincerely,

Sharla Sanborn

wailuku

Hawaii

From: [Sheri Ann Sardinha](#)
To: [HUS testimony](#)
Subject: Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds
Date: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:07:52 AM

From: sherianne85@yahoo.com <Sheri Ann Sardinha >

Message:

Early child development and exposure makes a difference to children to get the child school ready.

I support the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to 3 year olds and increase the appropriation to \$12 million from the current \$10 million in order to serve the additional students. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served 3 & 4 year olds from qualifying low-income families. However, the program was significantly reduced in 2012 and 2013. Although services and funding for the program increased in the last year, the program has not been restored to the needed service levels.

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Sincerely,

Sheri Ann Sardinha

Family Support Worker

Kahului

Hawaii



January 31, 2017

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Karen Worthington, Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: HB388 – Relating to Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 2, 2017, 9:30 AM

Position: Action Strategy supports HB388 Relating to Education

Dear Representative Morikawa, Representative Todd and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Early Childhood Action Strategy, a public private collaborative that recognizes the strength of communities and works across sectors to increase the number of young children in Hawaii who are born healthy, developing on track, ready for school when they enter kindergarten, and proficient learners by third grade.

Action Strategy supports HB388 which expands the Preschool Open Doors program to three- and four-year-old children. When Preschool Open Doors started in 1990, this state-funded program served three- and four-year-olds from qualifying low-income families. However, in recent years the program was changed to only serve four-year-old children.

The expansion of this program to include three-year-old children is critical to supporting Hawaii's families with young children. The average cost of child care in Hawaii is approximately \$8,040 per year. For most families, child care is their second highest expense after paying for housing. The POD subsidy allows families with low and low-moderate incomes to afford a high quality early learning setting for their children and increases the possibility that parents can work or pursue higher education or training. Access to stimulating, safe child care would not be possible for these families without POD subsidies.

High Quality Early Learning Programs are a critical component of Hawaii's early childhood system

Action Strategy Testimony on HB388

January 31, 2017

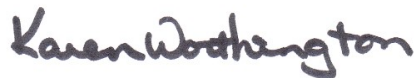
Page 2

because high quality early learning programs:

- support parents and families in nurturing their children
- help track children's development and recommend when screening should occur for developmental delays or developmental differences
- help parents and children benefit from interventions that follow developmental screenings
- help families identify needed community resources
- allow parents to work or pursue their education
- promote the social and emotional development of young children
- prepare children to enter school as kindergarteners.

Action Strategy is committed to ensuring Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe and ready to learn and HB388 supports that vision. Please feel free to contact me for additional information. I can be reached at 808-214-9336 or karen@clnhawaii.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Karen Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Karen Worthington, JD



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Human Services

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Date: February 1, 2017

Where: Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Morikawa, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 388 Relating to Education.**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Morikawa, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Todd, a me nā Lālā Lunamaka'āinana o kēia Kōmike, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support HB 388**, relating to education, and offer the following comments:

Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Kamehameha Schools 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, including expanding the Preschool Open Doors program 3- and 4-year-old children and for children in the year prior to entering kindergarten. We respectfully ask for your support.

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 believe that by continuing to engage in dialog around important educational policy decisions, we can contribute in a positive and meaningful way. 'A'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

HUStestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:07 AM
To: HUStestimony
Cc: gale.mcnish@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB388 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM

Categories: LATE

HB388

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for HUS on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gale McNish	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this measure.

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