



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 14, 2017

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 498, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: March 15, 2017
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. Expands the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amends the composition and powers of some board members. Allows the board to appoint the director of the executive office on early learning.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) strongly **supports** HB 498, HD 1.

This legislation transforms the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) into a governing board which will provide constancy in the position of the Executive Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning and will enable smooth functioning of the Office when there are changes in Administration.

This legislation also redefines the definition of "at risk" to include children whose family income is no more than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level. This will allow EOEL to extend the Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to working class families while prioritizing those whose family income is below two-hundred and fifty percent of the federal poverty level.

EOEL respectfully offers the following suggestions for revisions:

- 1) On page 12, line 10 the title was amended but section "a" was not included. EOEL proposes that the language in section "a" be re-inserted.
- 2) On page 19, lines 7-8 EOEL proposes that "early childhood education" should be revised to read, "early learning."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali‘i, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

SUBJECT: HB 498, HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hearing Date: March 15, 2017
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Broadens the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. Expands the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amends the composition and powers of some board members. Allows the Early Learning Board to appoint the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning.

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION’S POSTION: The State Public Charter School Commission **supports** HB 498D, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning.

The State Public Charter School Commission recognizes the importance of broadening the scope of the early learning programs to include early childhood development to support a holistic approach for Hawaii’s youngest keiki.

The State Public Charter School Commission **supports** the expansion of the early learning governance structure to support high quality early childhood programs in Hawaii. We support the measure and its amendments as it will assist the state in providing a multi-dimensional, cross-sector approach to address the needs of our keiki.

For these reason, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Date: March 15, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 498, HD1, Relating to Early Learning**

E ka Luna Ho'omalū Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalū Kahele, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, 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 498, HD1**, relating to early learning, 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 broadening the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development. By expanding the function of the early learning advisory board beyond an advisory capacity and amending the composition and powers of some board members, this measure allows the board to appoint the director of the executive office on early learning and is an important step to ensuring school readiness for Hawai'i's children, especially Native Hawaiians, prior to entering kindergarten.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



Native Hawaiian Education Council

March 14, 2017

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Ka`aialii Kahele, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i Senate
Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload - EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: HB498_HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Aloha 'oluha mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council)

SUPPORTS HB498_HD1 based on our:

- A. **Support of the Legislature's actions** to: (1) Broaden the scope of the Early Learning Program to include early childhood development; (2) Expand the function of the Early Learning Advisory Board beyond an advisory capacity and amend the composition and powers of some board members; (3) Allows the Board to appoint and evaluate the Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning and address the qualifications and salary for the Director position; (4) Adjust the family income threshold that determines Program eligibility for "at risk children" and "underserved children" and set a priority for families with income below 250 percent of the federal poverty level; and (5) Require the principal and other school personnel to participate in an early learning introduction program prior to opening a public prekindergarten class in a school.
- B. **Platform and priorities to: Intensify Systems Engagement**, actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities; and to engage in early learning planning and implementation work.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements



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Ka`aialii Kahele
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that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) or mobile (808.221.5477) telephone with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff



March 13, 2017

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

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

Re: **HB 498 HD 1– Relating to Early Learning**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, March 15, 2017, 2:45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to Support HB 498 HD 1– Relating to Early Learning.

This bill will widen the scope of the early learning program to include early childhood development, expand the function of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB), and allow the ELAB to appoint and evaluate the Executive Director of Early Learning.

The Executive Office on Early Learning's (EOEL) mission is to develop and administer a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children from birth until they enter kindergarten. In 2015, the EOEL shifted from being an office of the Governor to become an attached agency to the Department of Education. The same act that established EOEL also created the ELAB, whose role has been strictly advisory. **HB 498 HD 1** seeks to change the ELAB's role by giving it the authority to appoint and evaluate the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning; allowing it to set the Director's salary; and providing it the power, in accordance with the law, to formulate statewide policy relating to early learning.

HB 498 HD 1 would provide the oversight and authority of a board to guide the strategic direction of the system development while supporting and holding the EOEL accountable for developing a high-quality, cohesive, comprehensive, and sustainable system. The ELAB would retain the diverse public/private membership but reduce the number of voting members. In the end, this bill will add a key aspect needed in governance for the P-20 continuum, a board for early learning to compliment the Board of Education and the Board of Regents.

Another important facet of **HB 498 HD 1** is the amendment of the “at risk” definition to include children whose family income is no more than “three hundred percent of the federal poverty level” rather than current statute designation of “two hundred fifty percent.” This change will expand opportunities for families currently excluded to gain access to early learning programs. Providing many more children the opportunity to benefit from quality early learning experiences leading to school and life success.

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

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 Hawaii Children’s Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB498 on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM*

HB498

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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.

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