



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

February 28, 2017

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 500, HD1 – Relating to Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs
Hearing Date: March 1, 2017
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **supports** HB 500, HD1.

EOEL is in support of increasing access to high quality pre-kindergarten programs across the state. In the 2017-18 school year, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission plans to provide opportunities for 360 students to attend pre-kindergarten in the year before they are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If funded, EOEL is willing to work with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission to implement this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: HB 500 H.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 H.D.1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

This MOU with the executive office on early learning (EOEL) will ensure that quality measures will continue to align with those of the public pre-K programs in its jurisdiction.

In the federal grant from the United States Department of Education that establishes 18 pre-kindergarten classrooms in charter schools, the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) is charged

with defining sustainability plans once the federal grant ends. A sub-committee work group has been working on this plan for the past year in partnership with the State Public Charter School Commission. A combination of factors has made this work more urgent. First, although Congress approved this federal grant for four years, Congress has only approved funding for three years, thus far. Second, the change in administration in Washington D.C. has raised questions about the viability of the fourth year of funding.

The appropriation request is based on the following:

- Direct costs using the DOE formula

Table A		
"A" Salary	Teacher salary, annual	\$ 46,790.00
	EA salary, annual	\$ 27,614.00
"A1" Salary	Teacher PD days (\$164 x 10)	\$ 1,640.00
	EA PD days (\$98.75 x 10)	\$ 987.50
"B" for Travel, Assessments & Other Current Expenses	Travel (airfare, rental car, hotel and per diem) for teachers and administrators to participate in professional development, professional learning communities and/or conferences (5 @ \$500)	\$ 2,500.00
	Pre- and Post- Assessments	\$ 2,000.00
	Web-based Formative Assessment @ \$12/student	\$ 240.00
	Overhead @ \$4,000 per school support + \$3,700 per class + \$2,500 for materials/supplies + maintenance costs + maintenance of DHS licensing \$28,028.50	\$ 38,228.50
TOTAL per school		\$ 120,000.00
DIRECT COSTS FOR 18 CLASSES		\$ 160,000.00

- Indirect costs to administer and oversee the program

<p style="text-align: center;">TABLE B INDIRECT COSTS (NOTE: SALARIES ARE ALIGNED WITH DOE)</p>						
POSITION	SALARY	# INTERISLAND TRAVEL	INTERISLAND TRAVEL COSTS	# CONTINENTAL TRAVEL	CONTINENTAL TRAVEL COSTS	TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET
Educational Specialist (SR07)	\$ 91,909	20	\$ 10,000	3	\$ 10,062	\$ 111,971
Staff Office Teachers (coach)	\$ 71,126	60	\$ 30,000	3	\$ 10,062	\$ 111,188
Staff Office Teachers (coach)	\$ 71,126	60	\$ 30,000	3	\$ 10,062	\$ 111,188
Staff Office Teachers (coach)	\$ 71,126	60	\$ 30,000	3	\$ 10,062	\$ 111,188
Account Clerk	\$ 30,468	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ 30,468
Materials/Supplies/admin costs						\$ 263,997
TOTAL SPCSC Pre-K BUDGET	\$ 335,755	200	\$ 100,000	12	\$ 40,248	\$ 740,000

- Inter-island travel budget request breakdown:

Travel - inter-island	\$ 347.00
Car and fuel	\$ 65.00
Per Diem	\$ 68.00
Airport Parking	\$ 20.00
TOTAL LOCAL TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$ 500.00

- Continental travel budget request breakdown:

Travel - continental U.S.		\$ 1,500.00
Per diem @ \$68/day x 3 days		\$ 204.00
Transportation	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Hotel @ \$300/night		\$ 1,500.00
Baggage		\$ 50.00
Conference fee		\$ 500.00
TOTAL CONTINENTAL TRAVEL EXPENSES		\$ 3,854.00

- Appropriation request summary

DIRECT COSTS FOR 18 CLASSES (Table A)	\$ 2,160,000.00
INDIRECT COSTS (refer to Table B)	\$ 740,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST	\$ 2,900,000.00

Currently, the state public charter school commission is in year two of the grant with six schools implementing prekindergarten programs. Currently 116 children have been enrolled. Beginning school year 2017-2018, all 18 classrooms will be providing high quality pre-K programs statewide. By sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that up to 360 children and their families across the state will be able to benefit from high quality preschool experiences. Combined with the EOEL prekindergarten classrooms in DOE schools, this will nearly double the number of children enrolled in public pre-K programs in Hawaii.

Another important aspect of **HB 500** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500** includes families with four-year-old children whose income is three hundred percent or less of the federal poverty guideline, rather than the current two hundred percent income requirement. This change will increase access to high quality prekindergarten programs for children and families who may be living in remote and rural areas of our state.

A mother of a student currently attending the Kualapu'u Public Charter School prekindergarten program recently asked, "Please keep our pre-K program. It's an excellent program, excellent teacher and an administrator who is behind it 100% and with a community that needs it. We are a small community, and we don't have many options. So, please, please, please continue to fund the pre-K. We are very invested."

Another mom from our prekindergarten program at Na Wai Ola Public charter in Volcano, Hawaii shared, "It's amazing! She's gone from shy, timid and very enclosed to just free-spirited. She talks to people and makes friends. For me personally as a mom, to see your child bloom... she used to keep to herself. Now, she's goes out and she wants to learn. She wants to go to school. To see her just share what she learned throughout the school day and bring it home and say, 'I want to show you (be)cause this is what I learned in class.' The whole family

is a part of her learning. It's something special.”

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



February 27, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Karen Worthington, Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: HB500-HD1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, March 1, 2017, 1:00 PM

Position: Action Strategy supports HB500-HD1 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs

Dear Representative Luke, Representative Cullen, 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 the passage of HB500-HD1 because public charter prekindergarten (PreK) programs are an important component of an effective, comprehensive early childhood system.

Hawaii's charter school PreK program is supported by a federal grant from the US Department of Education. Unfortunately, those federal grant funds may no longer be available for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. State funding is needed to continue the public charter school PreK program during those years and to accomplish the original vision for the program, which includes offering the program in a total of 18 classrooms starting in the 2017-2018 school year.

HB500-HD1 provides that the funds will be administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL), which will enter into a partnership with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission for this purpose. EOEL is well-positioned for this task and the purpose of that office includes overseeing PreK programs in public schools.

Action Strategy is committed to ensuring Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe and ready to learn and HB500-HD1 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 black ink that reads "Karen Worthington".

Karen Worthington, JD



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauili ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

February 27, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: I. Meahilahila Kelling, Ed.D., Director
Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS

SUBJECT: HB 500 H.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

On behalf of Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, Laboratory Public Charter School, I am writing in support HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 H.D. 1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program would allow us to continue serving students at a younger age, contributing to building a seamless transition into Kindergarten. We currently serve 18 students who may otherwise not have the opportunity to attend preschool. We recognize and have experienced the positive impact that dual language learning has on students at an earlier age and we are hopeful that our program will be sustained after the Charter School Preschool grant terms end.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 500 H.D. 1.

Representative Sylvia Luke , Chair
Representative Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 500, HD 1, Relating to Early Learning -- Hearing
March 1 2017, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the ELAB in support of HB 500, HD 1, Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs. This bill requires the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Charter School Commission to administer the charter school pre-kindergarten classrooms and appropriates funding to continue the 18 charter school prekindergarten classrooms beginning with the 2018-19 school year

An MOU with the EOEL establishing it as the administering body of the charter school prekindergarten classrooms is necessary to ensure that quality measures align with those of the public pre-K program currently under its jurisdiction.

In the federal grant from the United States Department of Education to establish pre-kindergarten classrooms in charter schools, the ELAB was charged with defining sustainability plans once the federal grant ended. A sub-committee work group has been working on such plans for the past year. A combination of factors has made this work more urgent: first, federal funding was secured for only 3 years of the 4-year grant time frame; and, second, the change in administration in Washington has raised questions about the viability of fourth year funding which seemed more promising prior to the election.

This is year two of the grant and 6 classrooms are up-and-running; an additional 12 will be launched this next year. Already, testimonials from families indicate the value of the program despite the few children being served. Currently 120 children are enrolled and by the start of school year 2017-18, another 240 children will be served, which almost doubles the number of children enrolled in public pre-K in our State. The possibility of not continuing the 18 classrooms because of a lack of funding would be a disservice to our *keiki* and their families. And of critical importance is that the schools in which these pre-K classrooms are being opened are located in areas of limited-to-no access to high quality early childhood programs and schools report very few have preschool experience prior to Kindergarten.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 500, HD 1.

Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Advisory Board, Chair



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**Testimony In Support of HB 500 HD 1
Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**

Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 308, Hawai'i State Capitol

Chair Luke and Members of the Committees:

Ho'okako'o Corporation (Ho'okako'o) is in **strong support of HB 500 HD 1**, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms, and appropriates moneys to continue the funding of these prekindergarten classrooms.

HB 500 will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Research shows that children who attend prekindergarten are better prepared for school and in life. Long-term studies suggest that prekindergarten positively impacts important societal outcomes such as high school graduation, completed years of education, earnings, and reduced crime and teen pregnancy.

Early reports of the prekindergarten programs begun through this program at our charter schools Kualapu'u School and Kamaile Academy indicate that their prekindergarten students will be better prepared for success when entering Kindergarten than students who did not attend prekindergarten. Prekindergarten parents are also demonstrating increased involvement in the education of their children.

Ho'okako'o strongly supports HB 500 as it supports early education strategies critical to the educational success of young learners. We respectfully request the House Committee on Finance's support of HB 500.

Thank you,

David Y. Gibson, Executive Director
Ho'okāko'o Corporation
(808) 983-3835

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:56 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

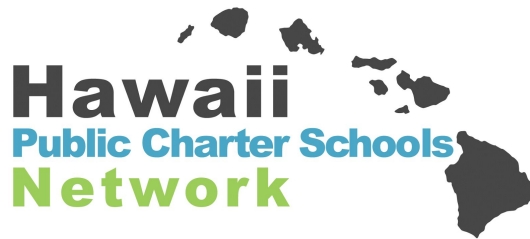
Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	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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March 1, 2017

To: Hon. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Hon. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Finance Committee Members
House Committee on Finance

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

Re: **HB 500 HD1 - Relating Public Prekindergarten Programs.
Conference Room 308 – Hawaii State Capitol – March 1, 2017, 1:00 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we respectfully submit our testimony in support of [HB 500](#) HD1, relating to public prekindergarten programs.

This bill requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This is an important step to safeguard significant federal investments to expand early learning and add pre-kindergarten classes in Hawaii's public charter schools and build upon state investments in DOE pre-kindergarten programs prioritizing services for at-risk children and families around our state.

Increasing opportunities for keiki to succeed by providing a high quality early learning environment yields better long-term success.

HPCSN works to support Hawaii's public charter schools and to be a voice for children and families that seek choice in an independent public school setting. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and respectfully urges your passage of this bill.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 1:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kumu.puanani@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 3/1/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Puanani Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

Kamaile Academy Public Charter School

February 28, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Walter Grilho, 6th grade teacher
Kamaile Academy PCS

SUBJECT: HB 500 H.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

On behalf of Kamaile Academy, I am writing in support HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 H.D. 1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that we want to continue to educate and nurture our keiki here in our community, while giving our community families a peace of mind and the support of an educational community. Here at Kamaile Academy, we thrive when our families' needs are met, and when our children develop a lifelong love of learning, fostered by their earliest teachers. We value children, families and teachers. We intend to provide for their mutual success with a focus on education, care, connections and community.



LATE

HB500 HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
House Committee on Finance

March 1, 2017

1:00 PM

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB500 HD1, which provides funding to continue and expand the public prekindergarten program for public charter school students. **This measure helps to ensure continuation of a program that benefits young learners, and increases their likelihood of success in school and the larger community.**

In any given year, there are about 17,000 four-year-old children in Hawai‘i, and approximately half enter kindergarten without having attended preschool. Not surprisingly, a significant majority of public school kindergarten teachers report that their students are not ready for school. Encouraging greater preschool attendance may substantially increase our children’s chances of success in kindergarten and beyond: when provided with the opportunity for high-quality early childhood education, research has shown that children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten, reach higher levels of educational attainment, and contribute meaningfully to society, among other positive achievements.

In 2014, OHA wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), in support of the State’s successful application to the USDOE’s Preschool Development Grants Program. The State’s application proposed to improve kindergarten readiness with an ambitious yet achievable plan, to expand access to high-quality preschool classrooms in high-need communities through a charter school prekindergarten program. This measure will ensure funding for the continuation and expansion of the charter school prekindergarten program, which currently supports preschool classrooms in six charter schools, four of which are Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion schools. OHA understands that the State plans to establish additional preschool classrooms, including within three additional Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion schools.

OHA has been a strong supporter of Hawai‘i’s public charter schools, many of which provide a culturally-grounded education for Native Hawaiian and other children. Seventeen of the thirty-four public charter schools in Hawai‘i are Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion charter schools, in which OHA has invested over \$15,000,000 since FY 2006 (School Year 2005-2006). OHA has made this investment because research has shown that Hawaiian students exposed to culturally-driven

educational strategies have a stronger sense of socio-emotional well-being, deeper engagement with their schools, and a stronger commitment to civic activities in their community, factors which are directly tied to greater academic achievement.

This bill's proposed funding for preschool classrooms will allow a greater number of preschool-aged children, including Native Hawaiian students, to access the advantages of early childhood education.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB500 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Date: March 1, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 500 HD1 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**

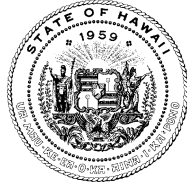
E ka Luna Ho'omaluku Luke, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Cullen a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

HB 500 HD1, relating to public pre-kindergarten programs, authorizes the executive office on early learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. It appropriates moneys to continue funding of public pre-kindergarten classrooms. We are writing in **support** of this measure.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of our 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.

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‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.



LATE

**STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter**

P O Box 260
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6906

February 28, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Lydia Trinidad
Principal

SUBJECT: HB 500 H.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Conference Room 308

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 H.D. 1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Research shows that children who attend preschool are better prepared for school and in life. Long-term studies suggest that preschool positively impacts important societal outcomes such as high school graduation, completed years of education, earnings, and reduced crime and teen pregnancy.

Another important aspect of **HB 500 H.D. 1** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500 H.D. 1** includes families with four-year-old children whose income is three hundred fifty percent or less of the federal poverty guideline, rather than the current two hundred percent income requirement. This change

will increase access to high quality prekindergarten programs for children and families who may be living in remote, rural areas of our state.

Sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that 19 children will have FREE access to an early education, especially in a rural area that has high poverty. Many of our children need an early start to learning to give them an early start and edge out of poverty.

Thank you for your support and consideration of **HB 500**.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
 Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:14 PM
 To: FINTestimony
 Cc: kauanoek@gmail.com
 Subject: Submitted testimony for HB500 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM

HB500

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauanoe Kamana	Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u	Support	No

Comments: On behalf of [INSERT SCHOOL NAME], I am writing in support HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs. HB 500 H.D. 1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019. We will able to continue to provide Hawaiian language medium preschool education for our children and families. This will support our State's official language, Hawaiian, and assure that our children will be prepared for matriculating into Hawaiian language medium kindergarten. Mahalo Kauanoe Kamanā Ph.D., Principal

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nancy.hawaii8@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB500 on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM

HB500

Submitted on: 2/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2017 13:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of HB 500.

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LATE

February 28, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Joseph Uno, Chair
Hookakoo Corporation

SUBJECT: HB 500 H.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

On behalf of Kualapuu Elementary School], I am writing in support HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 H.D. 1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that our school will be able to continue to provide high quality Pre-Kindergarten to the underserved community on Molokai.



LATE

February 27, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

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

Re: HB 500 HD 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, March 1, 2017, 1:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 500 HD 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

Executive Office on Early Learning is still trying to restore positions that were cut in previous budget years and restore basic funding for its operations. This bill would help to solidify the program and allow for much needed expansion of the public prekindergarten program into other areas of the state and charter schools. The state's public charter schools need to secure a more stable source of funding for the pre-kindergarten expansion currently being funded through a multi-year federal grant. Even though there are 34 charter schools in Hawaii, only six prekindergarten classes are currently operating in charter schools, with the addition of 12 classrooms in the 2017-2018 school year. There is a significant opportunity for growth.

There is no debate that early learning opportunities have long lasting positive influence on children. We know, for example, that over 85 percent of a child's brain is developed by the age of five. Moreover, we know that almost 50 percent of Hawaii's four-year-olds receive little or no formal school readiness experience before entering kindergarten. Despite positive advances over the past two years, Hawaii remains far behind other states in providing early childhood education. Ultimately, this means that our DOE system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of early learning experience. By investing in our children early, we help save our DOE time and money. This initiative may also help Hawaii compete for more federal funds for early learning programs

As the state plans for the expansion public prekindergarten classes to other schools, we also urge for the restoration of the EOEL office staff and operations budget, which are direly needed to restore and maintain the minimum required operations for EOEL to carry out its duties and functions.

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>.

LATE

February 28, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Catherine R, Carpenter, Instructional Specialist and Tutor
Kamaile Academy Public Charter School

SUBJECT: HB 500 H.D. 1 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Conference Room 308

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

On behalf of Kamaile Academy PCS, I am writing in support HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 H.D. 1 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

You must see that sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that the children entering into the school system will be prepared and ready to learn.

I have been a teacher for twenty years and have had the privilege of working with kindergarten and first grades in both public and private school systems. The students that entered into the kindergarten classes coming from preschool experiences were far more prepared and ready to learn. They had the understanding of basic social skills and the maturity of independent work. The teachers in these areas have to teach students in kindergarten how to sit, raise their hands, take turns, and follow directions. Then and only then, can they attempt to teach lessons prepared for kindergarten.

However, if a student were in a preschool environment they would have already learned these basic social skills and then when they entered into kindergarten are ready to learn the academics of reading, writing, math, science, music, art, etc.

We are asking our students and our teachers to produce miracles. They are not prepared and teachers are overwhelmed with responsibility to produce grade level readers and writers, and problem solving thinkers all within the ten short months. Many classrooms have no teacher aides and deal with overcrowded classrooms on top of it.

Please take into consideration my thoughts and concerns when deciding on the future of "OUR" future.

Mahalo,
Catherine R. Carpenter