



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

March 24, 2017

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 500, HD1, SD1 – Relating to Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs
Hearing Date: March 29, 2017
Time: 1:40 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 211

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.

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: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

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

SUBJECT: HB 500, HD 1, SD 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017
Time: 1:40 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 211

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

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION’S POSITION: The State Public Charter School Commission SUPPORTS HB 500, HD 1, SD 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs

HB 500, HD 1, SD 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.

The appropriation out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for the sum of **\$2,900,000** or so much thereof may be necessary for the fiscal year 2018-2019, to be expended as follows:

- 1) **\$1,386,567** to hire eighteen teacher and eighteen educational assistants in charter schools prekindergarten classrooms and to provide substitutes for ten professional development days for teachers and educational assistants;
- 2) **\$773,433** for leadership professional development to build charter school administrators' understanding of high quality early childhood practices, supplies, school overhead, and facility maintenance expenses to meet the group child care licensing requirements of the department of human services; and
- 3) **\$740,000**, for the administration and management of the charter school prekindergarten classrooms by the executive office on early learning in partnership with the Hawaii state public charter school commission.

The detailed breakdown of this budget is available as an attachment below.

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 to establish 18 pre-kindergarten classrooms in charter schools, the Early Learning Advisory Board (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 in partnership with the State Public Charter School Commission. A combination of factors has made this work more urgent: first, federal funding was secured for only three years of the four-year grant time frame; and, second, the change in administration in Washington, D.C. has raised questions about the viability of the fourth year of funding.

Currently, the state public charter school commission is in Year Two of the grant with six schools implementing prekindergarten programs. Currently 117 children have been enrolled. Beginning in school year 2017-2018, the grant will be in its full implementation phase with 18 classrooms implementing pre-K programs in charter schools.

Providing funding to sustain this high quality prekindergarten program beyond federal funding means that potentially 360 children and families across the state of Hawaii will be able to benefit annually from high quality preschool experiences. This will almost double the number of children enrolled in public pre-K programs in Hawaii.

Testimony from a mother of a student currently attending the Kualapu'u Public Charter School on Moloka'i prekindergarten program states, "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 the prekindergarten program at Na Wai Ola Public Charter School in Volcano, Hawaii shares, "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 reason, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the oppportunity to provide this testimony.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN TO SUSTAIN PRE-K IN CHARTER SCHOOLS

Table A		
DIRECT COSTS (using DOE formula)		
"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		\$ 2,160,000.00

TABLE B
INDIRECT COSTS

POSITION	SALARY (based on DOE salary schedule)	# 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 Teacher	\$ 71,126	60	\$ 30,000	3	\$ 10,062	\$ 111,188
Staff Office Teacher	\$ 71,126	60	\$ 30,000	3	\$ 10,062	\$ 111,188
Staff Office Teacher	\$ 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 BREAKDOWN	
Flight	\$ 347
Vehicle rental + fuel	\$ 65
Per Diem	\$ 68
Airport Parking	\$ 20
TOTAL LOCAL TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$ 500

CONTINENTAL TRAVEL BUDGET BREAKDOWN	
Flight	\$ 1,500
Per diem @ \$68/day x 3 days	\$ 204
Transportation	\$ 100
Hotel @ \$300/night	\$ 1,500
Baggage	\$ 50
Conference fee	\$ 500
TOTAL CONTINENTAL TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$ 3,854

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 500, HD 1, SD 1, Relating to Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs-- Hearing March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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, SD 1, Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs. This bill permits 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 will 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.

The ELAB supports this bill and recommendations offered by the Executive Office on Early Learning.

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

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



HB500 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 29, 2017

1:40 PM

Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB500 HD1 SD1, which would provide funding to continue and expand the public prekindergarten program for public charter school students. **This measure would help to ensure the 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 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



March 28, 2017

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Karen Worthington, Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: HB500-HD1-SD1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM

Position: Action Strategy supports HB500-HD1-SD1 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Dela Cruz, 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-SD1 because public charter prekindergarten (PreK) programs are an important component of an effective, comprehensive early childhood system.

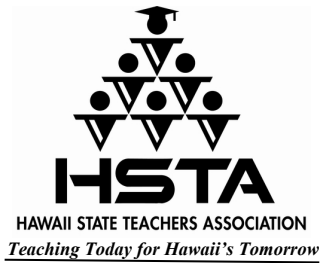
Hawaii's charter school PreK program is supported by a federal grant from the US Department of Education. Unfortunately, those federal grant funds may no longer be available for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. State funding is needed to continue the public charter school PreK program during those 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-SD1 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-SD1 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,

Karen Worthington, JD



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

Corey Rosenlee
President
Justin Hughey
Vice President
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: HB 500, HD1, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN
PROGRAMS.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 500, HD 1, SD 1**, relating to public prekindergarten programs.

As noted by an MIT working group on the topic, investments in early childhood education pay dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting economic vitality. Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Preschool brings an approximately \$4.20 return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services, especially in terms of longterm life skills. At the national level, every dollar spent on early childhood education saves taxpayers up to \$13.00 in future costs, including lowered healthcare costs, reduced rates of educational remediation and prison incarceration, and higher productivity. Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not only helps working parents fulfill their responsibilities, but is essential for building a 21st century labor force.

Early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students. According to the High Scopes/Perry Preschool longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

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Corey Rosenlee
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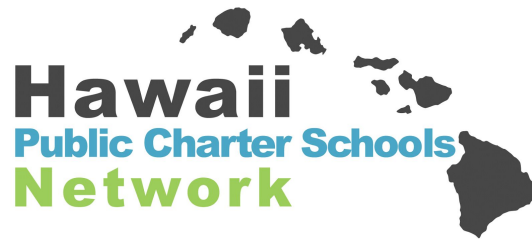
Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

quality early learning programs were 20 percent more likely to graduate from high school, 14 percent more likely to be employed, and 24 percent less likely to have been incarcerated by age 40 than peers without such access. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay and high-stakes evaluations for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

Utilizing public school resources for the provision of early learning will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certificated and licensed public school teachers. Additionally, public early learning programs will not set a precedent for the future adoption of school voucher programs at the elementary and secondary school level. Finally, this proposal does not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions, ensuring that the state will not become ensnared in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to programs that promote theological viewpoints. Public early learning will, instead, include research-based, developmentally appropriate, secular practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children. Public early learning programs currently exist in nineteen public schools, with only five programs on O’ahu and only one on Maui and Lana’i each. Since charter schools are public schools, funding public prekindergarten programming in the eighteen preschool classes currently offered in charter schools will expand access to children who may not be served by DOE preschool programs existing outside of their families’ geographic locations.

Because early childhood education is beneficial to lifetime learning, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



March 29, 2017

To: Hon. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**Re: HB 500 HD1 - Relating Public Prekindergarten Programs - SUPPORT
Conference Room 211 – Hawaii State Capitol – March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM**

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.

HPCSN's mission is to advance high quality education in Hawaii by advocating for and providing support to public charter schools across the state. HPCSN provides information and services to those interested in charter schools in Hawaii; offers its member services and resources to improve the quality of the programs and operations of charter schools; and advocates on behalf of charter schools to improve support for public charter schools.

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.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and respectfully urges your passage of this bill.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Time: 1:40 p.m.

Date: March 29, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 211

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

To: Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee

RE: **HB 500, HD1, SD1 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Tokuda, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Dela Cruz, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike o nā Loa'a a me nā Ho'olilo 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.

HB 500, HD1, SD1, relating to public pre-kindergarten program requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to administer charter school pre-kindergarten classrooms. It appropriates funding 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'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui.

March 27, 2017

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: **HB 500 HD 1 SD 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211, March 29, 2017, 1:40 PM

LATE

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

HB 500, HD 1 SD 1 will authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Public Charter School Commission to administer the prekindergarten classrooms in charter school. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the Federal Preschool Development Grant.

This bill would help to solidify Hawaii's early learning 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.

There is no debate that early learning opportunities have long lasting positive influence on children. Over 85% of a child's brain is developed by the age of five and yet almost 50 % of Hawaii's four-year-olds receive little or no formal school readiness experience before entering kindergarten. Despite positive advances over the past few 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.

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>.

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Ways and Means

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:40 p.m. Conference Room 211

Support for HB 500 Relating to Prekindergarten Programs

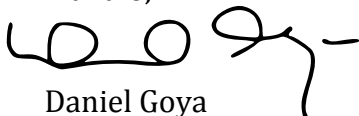
Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support that would authorize the Executive Office of Early Learning and State Public Charter Schools Commission to enter into a MOU to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms.

Public charter schools provide a valuable asset to the communities and many of these charter schools are located in rural areas where there are a limited amount of high-quality early learning systems. Some charter schools also perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture and promote strong and powerful family interactions.

Please support HB 500.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Goya', with a horizontal line underneath the first two letters.

Daniel Goya