



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,<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.



## HAWAII STATE PTSA

*every child. one voice.*

PO Box 459 · Pearl City · HI · 96782

TEL: (808) 943-2042 · EMAIL: [histateptsa.legislation@gmail.com](mailto:histateptsa.legislation@gmail.com)

January 27, 2017

Representative Dee Morikawa  
Chair House Committee on Human Services – Hawaii State Capitol

RE: HB578 - RELATING TO PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS PROGRAM

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

The Hawaii State PTSA **strongly supports HB578** relating to the Preschool Open Doors program which expands the qualifying age for the Preschool Open Doors program to children four years old and younger.

Research continues to show the pre-school successfully helps children prepare for school. According to a study released by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), pre-K initiatives are paying off for its four-year-old participants in greater improvements in early language, literacy, and math development. (Hustedt, Barnett, and Jung, 2007)

The PTSA would like to highlight the importance of reaching the underserved population and at-risk children mentioned in the bill. That is an especially vulnerable population that deserves consideration.

The Hawaii Congress of Parents, Teachers, and Students, also known as the Hawaii State PTSA, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of more than 22,000 volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. Chartered in 1926, the Hawaii State PTSA is Hawaii's oldest and largest child advocacy organization. We are a state charter of the National PTA, made up of local units throughout the State of Hawaii.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to your continued participation.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Devi Berg  
President  
(Original signatures are on file)

Jessica Wong-Sumida  
VP-Legislation



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII  
4680 Kalaniana'ole Highway, TB1A  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821  
Work 808-294-0991  
Fax 808-377-7733

January 27, 2017

TO: Committee on Human Services – Hawaii State Capitol

RE: HB578 - RELATING TO PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS PROGRAM

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

The Community Children's Councils (CCC's) **strongly supports** HB578 relating to the Preschool Open Doors program which expands the qualifying age for the Preschool Open Doors program to children four years old and younger.

The CCCs support the research which continues to show that pre-school successfully helps children prepare for school in the future as shown by the National Education Association. Pre-school education is important for ALL children including through with special needs. Children in pre-school with special needs very rarely have the opportunity to generalize their learning with mainstream peers if they are on a DOE campus which makes this program extremely important for those who qualify.

The 17 CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) at 294-0991.

Thank you for considering our testimony,  
Ivalee Sinclair, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)



**ADA**

**HAWAII**

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO. Box 23404  
Honolulu  
Hawaii'i 96823

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January 30 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chair Morikawa and Members of the Human Services Committee

RE: HB 578 Relating to Preschool Open Doors Program  
Support

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 578 as it would expand eligibility for the preschool open doors program

By not providing preschool services to these children when they are three years old, their school readiness will likely decrease while they wait to become eligible for these services at four years of age. We regret that this is not a full universal pre-K education program for all three and four year old children. Yet this is a small start. Studies overwhelmingly show that early education pays off in later educational achievement, life-time earning potential, and the lack of need for social services later in life. Early Education is a good investment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel  
President



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 578 – Relating to Preschool Open Doors Program**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 1, 2017, 9:30 AM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support the intent of HB 578 – Relating to Preschool Open Doors Program**

HCAN supports the intention to expand the Preschool Open Doors program to children younger than 4 years old. 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.

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>.

**Since this bill does not contain any increased funding for the program while increasing the services, we support the intent, but cannot support the passage.**

**For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that the committee vote to combine this bill with HB 388.**

## HUStestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2017 2:07 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Cc:** cchaudron08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB578 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM

### **HB578**

Submitted on: 1/27/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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## 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 578 Relating to the Preschool Open Doors Program.**

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 578**, relating to the Preschool Open Doors Program, 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 qualifying age for the Preschool Open Doors program to children four years old and younger. 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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:48 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Cc:** lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB578 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM\*

**Categories:** LATE

### HB578

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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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## HUStestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2017 8:30 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Cc:** arce101@outlook.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB578 on Feb 1, 2017 09:30AM

### HB578

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 578 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.

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

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**From:** Vanessa Uddipa <uruyvaaffstuig@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:53 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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.

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,

Vanessa Uddipa

Receptionist/Mother of 3

Kahului

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Angeli Joy Villon <guyrayrdoqlwsuu@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:53 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

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

**Message:**

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Sincerely,

Angeli Joy Villon

Concierge

Kahului

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Bernard Uy <yphhwyzdbvdhbm@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:55 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** bernard@walltowall.com <Bernard Uy>

**Message:**

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Sincerely,

Bernard Uy

Kailua

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Judith Clark <bdhcezahwmqftbr@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:55 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** jclark@hysn.org <Judith Clark>

### Message:

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Sincerely,

Judith Clark

Honolulu

Hawaii



## HUStestimony

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**From:** Troy Abraham <jscvahgjwbhgrzf@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Kory Payne <xqvhbqgubrvzpbby@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:03 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

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

**Message:**

Mahalo

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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.

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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,

Kory Payne

HCAN Field Coordinator

Waialua

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Melanie Padgett <wbcunznbjtsvnqk@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:08 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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.

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Sincerely,

Melanie Padgett

Project Specialist Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center

Pukalani

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Shay Chan Hodges <lbqnbstqctebopx@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:09 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

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

### 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,

Shay Chan Hodges

Author/Writer/Advocate

Haiku

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Michelle Gray <wittnjcfefwochl@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:13 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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



## HUStestimony

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**From:** Springer Kaye <ygkhwxzanqvrsy@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Sherrie Galdeira <helcalrmoyqseta@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:35 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** sgaldeira@ymail.com <Sherrie Galdeira>

**Message:**

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Sincerely,

Sherrie Galdeira

Business Owner

Hilo

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Kathleen Wescott <hfcyogvwtlsmeif@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:42 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Scott Euken <kqbmiexpSabijut@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 5:34 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** seuken@aol.com <Scott Euken>

### Message:

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Sincerely,

Scott Euken

Self Employed

Kaneohe

Hawaii



## HUStestimony

---

**From:** Heather Thomas <rydxdozwnoocdr@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:14 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Susan Hiraoka <lecrxjjzhjhootx@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:01 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

---

**From:** Micaela Lozano <trkxufarkedwvgw@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:32 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** mickeyjazzz@yahoo.com <Micaela Lozano>

### Message:

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Sincerely,

Micaela Lozano

Wahiawa

## HUStestimony

---

**From:** Diane Brandon <nqawzfnqqbqohzn@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:30 PM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** nslmrmmd@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

## HUStestimony

---

**From:** Roma Johnson <queksokwgjajho@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 7:32 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

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

### 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,

Roma Johnson

Retired speech pathologist

Kailua-Kona

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Ashley De Coligny <lfbdrmwphjxygp@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

---

**From:** Diane Arconado <vxopqgdywlajero@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

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

### Message:

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Sincerely,

Diane Arconado

Clerical

Wailuku



Hawaii

## HUStestimony

---

**From:** Susan Merrill <cfbjtavcclwefm@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Jozette Momoa Smythe <fxzvzxsijkgxrf@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:27 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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.

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,

Jozette Momoa Smythe

Youth Services Facilitator

Haiku

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Douglas Mersberg <lshdghwdehhctqs@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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.

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,

Douglas Mersberg

Executive Director

Waianae

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Melissa Anne Wong <ntlvbbnmftfdief@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:51 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**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

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Billy Henson <blpwzmgtdhaznlq@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** wesleychildrensprogram@yahoo.com <Billy Henson>

**Message:**

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Sincerely,

Billy Henson

Director

Honolulu

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Sharla Sanborn <imbvfzjfwjzbac@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:06 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** sharlam808@gmail.com <Sharla Sanborn>

### Message:

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Sincerely,

Sharla Sanborn

wailuku

Hawaii

## HUStestimony

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**From:** Sheri Ann Sardinha <iqqmnggvudnsvt@ujoin.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 11:07 AM  
**To:** HUStestimony  
**Subject:** Access to Preschool Open Doors for Three & Four Year Olds

**Categories:** LATE

**From:** sheriann\_85@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