



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

March 16, 2017

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 937, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: March 17, 2017
Time: 2:55 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Appropriate funds for the executive office on early learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family child interaction learning programs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **supports** HB 937, HD 1 with recommendations for amendments.

Family is the single most important influence in a child's life. Parents and families have the most direct and lasting impact on children's learning and development of social competence. Children thrive when parents actively promote their positive growth and development. Families are a child's first and lifelong partner in education and early childhood providers need to build the kind of relationships that engage families as active partners early in their child's education.

EOEL respectfully requests that the language in HB 937, HD 1, Section 1, lines 1-7, be revised to: "The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for the implementation of services **which offer opportunities for family and community engagement as well as parent education and support.**" Section 2, lines 12 – 17 should also be replaced with the following, "...the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers to develop and implement programs that support families to take an active role in the social, emotional, and cognitive development of their young children."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:55 p.m.

Date: March 17, 2017

Where: Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

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

RE: **HB 937 Relating to Early Learning**

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kahele, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support HB 937 HD1**, relating to early learning, and offer the following comments:

Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Kamehameha Schools Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawai'i's pre-kindergarten children, including supporting family-child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed-delivery early learning system. By allowing the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning programs, this measure will help to ensure school readiness for Hawai'i's children prior to entering kindergarten, especially Native Hawaiians.

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.



TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Friday, March 17, 2017; 2:55 p.m., Conference Room 229

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 937 HD 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

We support the intent of HB 937 HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning. We support more early intervention and learning opportunities for our keiki, especially to the most vulnerable families in our community. Participation in early learning and development programs for school readiness have immediate and long-term benefits that include higher levels of educational achievement, reduced homelessness, reduced crime, reduced substance abuse, improved health, and overall better social and economic well-being.

The first 5 years of a child’s life provides the foundation for future growth and development. Access to programs at an early age will help early identification of developmental, social-emotional, and early learning issues.

Family-child interaction learning (FCIL) programs have a role in serving our keiki. We support FCIL’s that will provide comprehensive services to families most in need, that includes but not limited to: case management services, health and wellness support, education, crisis intervention, and employment support services for parents and caregivers. FCIL programs working in conjunction with a system of early learning (that includes center-based services, home visiting and family childcare) can assist our keiki and families.

It is of crucial importance that we invest in our keiki. **Children in Hawaii, no matter what their circumstance, deserve a chance.** This is also a key component to our war on intergenerational poverty.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii’s not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 937 HD 1**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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

March 17, 2017

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB937 HD1 allowing the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers offering family-child interaction learning programs (FCILs)

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports the State offering a variety of early learning and education options for our children. We like the FCILs, specifically because they are focused on engaging parents and families with their children in these critical early years. Some families may not want to enroll their children in a traditional pre-school program. FCILs offer an alternative to help parents/caregivers build their capacity to support their children, and give them the tools to guiding their children when they enter the K-12 system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Members and Participants

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Friday, March 17, 2017 at 2:55 P.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 937 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 937 HD1, which makes an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning organizations.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it is imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This is not only about return of investment, but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Committee Hearing
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Friday 17Mar17, 2:55 PM

Support for HB 937, HD1: Relating to Early Learning

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of this Committee,

My name is Billy Richards and am currently serving as the Project & Advocacy Manager for Administration for Partners In Development Foundation (PIDF). However, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the intent of this Bill, as an individual and private citizen.

FCIL (Family Child Interaction Learning) programs provide tremendous support in settings that are a very affordable option for most families, especially those who cannot bear the expense of a drop-off preschool, or who don't qualify for financial assistance.

These kinds of programs also allow families to go to preschool with their child and learn along with them, thus not only preparing our children to make the transition into the formal learning process, but also giving the caregiver the means and incentive to support that child through the coming years.

Family child interaction learning programs works closely with parents to teach them how to be their child's first and foremost educator. It is a mixed delivery system that also equips parents to be well informed and how to be an advocate for their child for the long term.

Teachers can only do so much. We need parents to continue at home what teachers provide for the student while in the classroom, thus supporting their effort.

Funding for these programs will provide a needed service to many of our keiki who today must enter a system without proper preparation.

Am asking for your support for HB 937, HD1 in your deliberations, and pass this much needed Bill out of committee.

Na'u Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Richards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, decorative flourish at the end.

EDU Testimony

From: Maile Keliipio Acoba <pyoqrvtajonvxcf@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:45 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: nativeisland@live.com <Maile Keliipio Acoba>

Message:

If we are truly dedicated to helping keiki reach their highest potential, we must assist families with obtaining skills to support their child's learning and advocate for their child's needs in the school systems. This makes FCIL programs such a valuable and necessary program toward the advancement of academic growth.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

Grants, foundations, and fundraising are unstable sources of funds, and changes in the federal grant landscape in particular raise questions about program sustainability.

FCIL programs serve over 3,100 keiki statewide. The number of children enrolled in FCIL programs is larger than the number enrolled in either licensed infant-toddler centers or registered family childcare homes. FCIL programs also serve our youngest keiki — almost half of children enrolled in FCIL programs are under age three. Many FCIL programs enroll families with a wide range of backgrounds, providing a chance to reduce socioeconomic barriers. Some FCIL programs target vulnerable groups such as immigrant or homeless families.

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Maile Keliipio Acoba

VP of Programs

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Michelle Gray <lhhqjyxnuchoebb@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:41 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: michelleplusnumbers@gmail.com <Michelle Gray>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Michelle Gray

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Nalani Galariada <iprxudigrdvtosu@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:51 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: nalani96792@gmail.com <Nalani Galariada>

Message:

Please allocate State funding to sustain FCIL programs for diverse families across the State. Families must have options for ECE programs that meet's their families needs.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Nalani Galariada

Program Director

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Pua Aquino <eotzqbwtouwpvu@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: jtandal@pidfoundation.org <Pua Aquino>

Message:

I am fortunate to both work for and have my children attend and FCIL program. I have been with the program for over 8 years and have seen numbers benefits these types of programs provide. Not only are my children being educated, but the caregivers who attend school with my children (which includes myself, my spouse, and my parents) also benefit from what the program has to offer. It provides the caregivers with not only the bare necessities, like food and clothes, but also with health education, CPR classes, emotional support, and many other various resources. The staff not only checks on the keiki but they are also constantly checking on the parents to make sure they are keeping up with the things they need to do, if they need help in any way, and provides encouragement and support when it is needed most.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Pua Aquino

Native Hawaiian Curriculum Specialist

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Melanie Padgett <wyybwzavyzntvdc@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:08 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: melanieandjamie@live.com <Melanie Padgett >

Message:

FCILs do a great job of supporting parents and giving them the tools they need to be their child's first teacher.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Melanie Padgett

project specialist

Pukalani

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Anelalani Raposas <webmpbjguhaoydm@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:24 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: anelalanir@inpeace.org <Anelalani Raposas>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

Grants, foundations, and fundraising are unstable sources of funds, and changes in the federal grant landscape in particular raise questions about program sustainability.

FCIL programs serve over 3,100 keiki statewide. The number of children enrolled in FCIL programs is larger than the number enrolled in either licensed infant-toddler centers or registered family childcare homes. FCIL programs also serve our youngest keiki — almost half of children enrolled in FCIL programs are under age three. Many FCIL programs enroll families with a wide range of backgrounds, providing a chance to reduce socioeconomic barriers. Some FCIL programs target vulnerable groups such as immigrant or homeless families.

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Anelalani Raposas

Parent Educator

waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Seanalle Luafalemana <zsggpnmskonbfmb@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: seanalle@inpeace.org <Seanalle Luafalemana>

Message:

Being a Parent Educator on the island of Molokai, Hawaii and working for INPEACE, am able to work with expecting mothers and children up to 3 months of age. Without funding, families will not be able to connect to resources, make connections with other families, understand their children's growth and development and establish a strong parent-child relationship. Through funding, we will be able to empower our families and communities.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Seanalle Luafalemana

Molokai Parent Educator

Kaunakakai

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Erica Yamauchi <drdntxccmgonaoy@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 12:39 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: erica.yamauchi@gmail.com <Erica Yamauchi>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Erica Yamauchi

Lecturer

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Justiana Kalilimoku <geezrrhaguwtqmp@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:34 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: justianak@inpeace.org <Justiana Kalilimoku>

Message:

Our children is our future!

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Justiana Kalilimoku

Parent Educator

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Jordana Ferreira <dppnwakerjgfrql@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:23 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: anadroj422@gmail.com <Jordana Ferreira>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Jordana Ferreira

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Sarah Goggins <kkifphzykfcvnt@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:35 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: sarahg@inpeace.org <Sarah Goggins>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Sarah Goggins

2-Gen Secure Families Project Manager

Pearl City

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Kathy Giffard <cidkiqrxqepkgkf@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:53 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: kathleeng@inpeace.org <Kathy Giffard>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Kathy Giffard

'Ohana Advocate

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Twila Kawai <wpibtkvupacslyg@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:38 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: twilak@inpeace.org <Twila Kawai>

Message:

A child's brain is developing at rapid rates during the first three years of his/her life. Participating in an FCIL, is economic, convenient, and a great bonding opportunity for both the child and his/her parent. Giving a child the chance to be a part of an FCIL is setting them up for educational success because it gives them a head start on learning and prepares them for Kindergarten. After all, a child's parent is their first teacher!

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Twila Kawai

Parent Educator

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Kelyn Hallman <ghqixuhjisquvsr@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:02 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: kelynh@inpeace.org <Kelyn Hallman>

Message:

FCIL programs are more than just school. These programs provide a place for 'ohana to nurture their attachment to each other. Instead of asking my child about what he learned at school, I already have the information and can better understand how he is learning and what techniques work best for him. My presence also re-enforces his confidence. He knows that he is able to explore because someone that he knows and trusts will be there watching out for his best interests.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Kelyn Hallman

Program & Data Specialist

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Ravandolyn Galvin <wzetqlfnqgekagl@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:32 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: ravandolyngalvin@gmail.com <Ravandolyn Galvin>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Ravandolyn Galvin

Child and Youth Program Assistant

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Nicole Schubert <qbvjsoqnslgtyd@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 1:37 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: nicole.j.schubert@gmail.com <Nicole Schubert>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Nicole Schubert

Teacher

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Chanel Young <lwtrkydkhcfgft@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:06 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: chanelk@inpeace.org <Chanel Young>

Message:

FCIL programs are working hard to promote early education for families and helps to build a strong educational foundation for children and their families. Through these programs children and parents are able to learn and grown to their full potential to be and do anything that they put their minds to. FCIL programs empowers community to be the best they can be! With the proper funds FCIL programs can continue to thrive in their communities!

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

Grants, foundations, and fundraising are unstable sources of funds, and changes in the federal grant landscape in particular raise questions about program sustainability.

FCIL programs serve over 3,100 keiki statewide. The number of children enrolled in FCIL programs is larger than the number enrolled in either licensed infant-toddler centers or registered family childcare homes. FCIL programs also serve our youngest keiki — almost half of children enrolled in FCIL programs are under age three. Many FCIL programs enroll families with a wide range of backgrounds, providing a chance to reduce socioeconomic barriers. Some FCIL programs target vulnerable groups such as immigrant or homeless families.

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Chanel Young

SITE COORDINATE

WAIANAE

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Deanna Smith <gjnhbvyfvxjmbzr@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:20 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: deannas@inpeace.org <Deanna Smith>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Deanna Smith

Admin Asst

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Kathleen Wescott <cgssziawbguvrkl@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:50 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: jandkaloha@aol.com <Kathleen Wescott>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Kathleen Wescott

Tutu

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Harriet Mokiao <wwscfogtsklgute@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:18 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: harrietm@inpeace.org <Harriet Mokiao>

Message:

I have seen first hand in the work that I do, that FCIL programs are vital. They help parents recognize and understand child development and support their children's learning. When parents understand normal child development and are able to put these practices into action they are more likely to have reasonable expectations, respond with positive discipline and effectively change behaviors. This knowledge is able to be retained because of the constant interaction between families and children. Unfortunately, without programs like these our families and children will suffer. Children are less likely to have that support and basic foundation in order to thrive and they are more likely to suffer from abuse or neglect. So I am in support of creating a stable funding source for FCIL programs.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Harriet Mokiao

Parent Educator

Wailuku

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Shay Chan Hodges <slkctlfhsotafzo@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:57 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

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

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges

Author/Writer

Haiku

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Rachel Ebert <wlrwwxjzolybct@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:51 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: droda_7@yahoo.com <Rachel Ebert>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Rachel Ebert

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Luana Quisquirin Sabagala <jqbucaixpmetexk@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:23 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: luanaq@inpeace.org <Luana Quisquirin Sabagala>

Message:

Malama na keiki o hawaii

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Luana Quisquirin Sabagala

Ohana advocate

Kapolei

Hawaii

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PERSON TESTIFYING: Robyn S. B. Chun

DATE: Friday, March 17, 2017

TIME: 2:55 PM

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 229

TITLE OF BILL: HB 937, HD 1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Honorable Chair, Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair Kaiali'i Kahele and Committee Members

I **strongly support** of **HB 937, HD 1** which allows an appropriation for the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into contracts with third party providers for family-child interaction learning programs.

HB 937, HD 1 enables the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) to contract with third party providers that are involved in work empowering families so that they have the knowledge and skills to actively support the healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development of infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children who may not otherwise receive early learning services. They are important programs that are part of a mixed-delivery early learning system. The FCILs and other variations on family engagement models are recognized in statute as one of the 4 types of early learning programs that make up our current birth - PK early education system and serve 3,400 children statewide with over 50% of these children under the age of 3-years-old. 31% of these children live at or below the federal poverty level and many are from vulnerable populations such as immigrant or homeless families.

Many of the early learning programs that are based on a family empowerment models originate from the Native Hawaiian community because the other options available were inaccessible or were structured in ways that were in contrast to the values and needs of Native Hawaiian 'Ohana. In areas with high populations of Native Hawaiians, FCIL and other innovative programs were created by leaders within these communities that were sensitive to the cultural values and concerns of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander families. I would suggest that **a broader definition that encompasses the variety of programs built on family and community engagement or parent education and support** models is adopted in the legislation.

They are a vital link in our system of early learning services. These programs reach out to families at homeless shelters, in the prisons, on the beaches, or in public schools in communities in ways that enable them to reach families who are the most likely not to be able or willing to make use of more conventional preschools. Some of the organizations that created these programs designed programs based on what they knew about families in Native Hawaiian communities rather than asking families to make choices that are difficult such as putting the care and learning of a preschool aged child over a younger sibling who may be a toddler. They have particularly powerful family engagement practices that accomplish much more than support a child's development and learning.

They engage in powerful, intergenerational community development work. Furthermore, because these types of programs have benefited from the generous federal dollars Senator Inouye has championed for programs that serve Native Hawaiians, they have a history of collecting data to evaluate outcomes based on assessments that are well recognized in the field such as the ASQ, ASQ-SE, and PPVT and to seek other quality measures such as program accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children or the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium Accreditation. Moreover, these programs contribute to workforce development in a way that supports the economic independence of parents by making recruiting from within the communities they serve and enabling those working with our youngest keiki to attend college and obtain a degree or to better themselves through job embedded professional development. The workplace practices of family these programs are supportive of the values and competing familial demands placed particularly on young mothers who are Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders.

The family-child interaction programs go where other types of programs are not structured to go, provide access to families other programs are not structured to serve, and encourage the voice and conviction of the parents and families within our most vulnerable communities. If we are going to turn around the career and college readiness of our most vulnerable keiki and empower their parents to become financially self-sustaining, these programs must be included as part of our solution. We have much to learn from them. Including FCILS in legislation is critical as we strive to build an early learning system that builds on the collective strengths and assets of our community based and public institutions. By doing so we will be able to make sure that the early childhood practitioners that serve in these programs obtain vital resources and also that the rest of the early learning system, including our public school settings, are able to learn from their successes.

Robyn Chun
Early Childhood Teacher Educator
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:40 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: nishiom@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB937 on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM*

HB937

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 17, 2017 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miya Nishio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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EDU Testimony

From: Jasmyn Paulo <lvffaeigzagloum@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 4:56 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: jasmynp@inpeace.org <Jasmyn Paulo>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Jasmyn Paulo

Site Coordinator

Hilo

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Elba Reyes <tdbnaimfomnvxdn@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:54 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: elbareyes@msn.com <Elba Reyes>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Elba Reyes

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Liane Schaefer <jxftjcpuvohtttz@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:43 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: lianemschaefer@gmail.com <Liane Schaefer>

Message:

As a first time mom without the family support keiki steps was a godsend. It has helped me stay sane as a stay at home mom, has educated me on how to be my child's first teacher, given me support when I needed it to do the most important job of my life and so much more. Programs like keiki steps must be supported in any way possible. The foundation of our society depends on us making decisions today that will impact us for generations to come. Save money by focusing on the front end and giving families the free support and education it should be given to give our keiki a strong start instead of on the back end where they aren't making a difference to rehabilitate inmates.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Liane Schaefer

Ohana Advocate

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Colleen Achuela <thpwomvzanqnpqu@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: colleen.achuela@gmail.com <Colleen Achuela>

Message:

There can no longer be any question the importance of FCIL programs for Hawaii's keiki. THEY ARE FUNDAMENTAL for the strong beginnings of a child's education.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Colleen Achuela

Waianae

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: David Gabaylo <nfqluomwomvbubr@ujoin.co>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:30 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: braddahxo@hotmail.com <David Gabaylo>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

FCIL Programs are excellent, but their funding is unstable. This bill will put in place the needed mechanism for FCIL programs to apply for grants and contracts with the state of Hawaii, instead of relying on unpredictable funding from the federal government and philanthropic donations.

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

David Gabaylo

Waiane

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Elizabeth Mc Farlane <pgbfexibotntdu@ujoin.co>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 8:41 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support Early Learning Programs & Invest in Keiki

From: ecmcfarl@jhu.edu <Elizabeth Mc Farlane>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

I'm writing in support of HB 937 HD1

There are numerous, high quality programs across our state that provide culturally-relevant, multi-generational, parenting skills and child development programs for low-income, at-risk families. Currently there is not an avenue for these programs to be supported by the state, which dramatically limits the number of families they can serve.

By providing the Executive Office on Early Learning funding and the opportunity to establish contracts with outside vendors for programs, new partnerships and opportunities will be available for our community.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Mc Farlane

Honolulu

Hawaii

EDU Testimony

From: Lynissa Dicion Kealoha <obgsybbhlmrckge@ujoin.co>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 9:37 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Family-Child Interactive Learning Programs

From: lynissak@inpeace.org <Lynissa Dicion Kealoha>

Message:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Friday, March 17, 2017

Strong Support for HB 937

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Please pass this important bill. Mahalo

Lynissa Dicion Kealoha

Site Coordinator

Kapolei

Hawaii