



February 7, 2017

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

From: Karen Worthington, Project Coordinator
Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: HB937– Relating to Early Learning
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, February 8, 2017, 2:00 PM

Position: Action Strategy supports HB937 Relating to Early Learning

Dear Representative Takumi, Representative Har, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Early Childhood Action Strategy, a public private collaborative that recognizes the strength of communities and works across sectors to increase the number of young children in Hawaii who are born healthy, developing on track, ready for school when they enter kindergarten, and proficient learners by third grade.

Action Strategy supports the passage of HB937 because Hawaii's Family Child Interaction Learning programs are an important component of a comprehensive early childhood system. The Family Child Interaction Learning organizations have been successful in working with children and families which have resulted in positive social, emotional and educational outcomes. State funding for these programs will allow more families to access these important programs.

Action Strategy is committed to ensuring Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe and ready to learn and HB937 supports that vision. Please feel free to contact me for additional information. I can be reached at 808-214-9336 or karen@clnhawaii.org.

Sincerely,

Karen Worthington, JD

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair

February 28, 2017

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.*



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: February 28, 2017

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

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

RE: **HB 937 HD1, Relating to Early Learning.**

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

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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 937 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.

February 27, 2017

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty Cullen
House Finance Committee

HB 937

Aloha Finance Committee,

Aloha, I am submitting this testimony to express my very strong support for the funding of family child interaction learning programs.

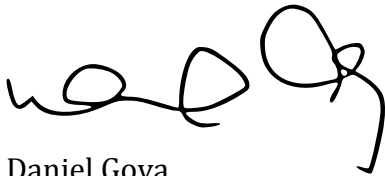
These programs provide families with tremendous support and prepare our keiki to make the transition into the formal learning process. Research has shown that there is a tremendous long-term savings to society when a child receives proper educational preparation.

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.

After meeting with early learning communitites and coalitions I would like to add a friendly ammendment to address the following edit to Section I:

Beginning on line 4 to read, "interaction learning programs which provide appropriate developmental programs offering opportunities for family and community engagement and parent education and support"

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Goya'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Daniel Goya



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



February 27, 2017

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 937, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: February 28, 2017
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 308

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.



LATE

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)
DATE/LOCATION: Tuesday, February 28, 2017; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

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.



LATE

February 27, 2017

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

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

Re: HB 937 HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 28, 2017, 3:00 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 937 HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning.

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. 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.

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

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2017 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.