



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

March 19, 2018

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

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** H.B. No. 2170, H.D. 1 – Relating to Early Education  
**Hearing Date:** March 19, 2018  
**Time:** 3:15 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 229

**Purpose of Bill:** Appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Early Learning for an online platform to facilitate professional learning for Executive Office on Early Learning public pre-kindergarten program educators.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION:** The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) strongly supports H.B. No. 2170, H.D. 1.

We appreciate the Legislature's support of EOEL's work to increase access to high-quality early learning. EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

This bill reflects the funding request of \$20,000 included in the Executive Supplemental Budget for early learning (Program ID EDN700), for an online platform to facilitate professional learning for EOEL Public Pre-kindergarten Program educators.

The positive outcomes associated with early learning are tied to high-quality programs, a crucial element of which are qualified educators. In addition to specialized coursework and training in early childhood education, early learning educators – which include both teachers and principals – require ongoing, targeted professional development to implement high-quality pre-kindergarten classrooms.

Currently, EOEL brings educators together several times a year for face-to-face professional learning with their peers. However, outside of these sessions, pre-k

teachers do not have the benefit that teachers in most public school K-12 settings have -- of being able to regularly talk to other teachers in their grade level to share information and best practices. Teachers on neighboring islands and in rural areas have expressed that they feel isolated and that the ability to remain connected, in addition to the training sessions and coaching/mentoring they receive, would greatly help them.

We want to ensure our teachers and principals have equitable access to the needed professional development and face-to-face collaboration with their peers and mentors that are key to improving instruction and implementing a high-quality pre-kindergarten program.

The online platform is a medium through which this can be achieved. In addition to serving as a tool for communication between educators, the platform will provide educators with access to resources, including up-to-date research and classroom materials as well as recorded trainings and meetings. These resources will be accessible on a continuing basis, thus providing the permanency needed for an effective online community of learners. All content will be developed and loaded onto the platform by EOEL.

**We respectfully request that the Committee consider including this as a recurring cost.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of HB2170 HD1---Relating to Early Education, March 19, 2018,  
3:15 pm, Conference Room 229

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

My name is Robert G. Peters. As the chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB), I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2170 HD1.

An EOEL (Executive Office on Early Learning) Public Pre-Kindergarten on-line platform for staff professional development provided for in HB2170 HD1 is a much-needed vehicle for training both teachers and administrators to be qualified to deliver quality early learning experiences for our keiki. Research shows conclusively that training in early childhood education positively affects the experience of children in early learning classrooms. The same holds true for administrators who, with proper training, are able to both lead and support their teachers in offering quality early learning experiences that have a positive impact.

A Public Pre-Kindergarten on-line platform would ensure that teachers, no matter their location on the Islands nor their time commitments, would have access to professional development and training. It will provide the opportunity to make professional development coursework and resources available statewide for access at any time.

We urge you to support HB2170 HD1 and its provision for an on-line platform to support needed professional development for our Public Pre-Kindergarten teachers of young children. It will make a difference. And, we support the EOEL's request to consider making this a recurring cost. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony supporting HB2170 HD1 and for the Legislature's on-going support of efforts to enhance access to quality early learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Peters, Chair

Early Learning Board

March 18th, 2018

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaialii Kahele, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

From: Bruce Broisman, Policy Fellow  
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 2170, HD1 – Relating to Early Education – SUPPORT**  
**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, March 19th, 2018, 3:15 PM**

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**On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 2170, HD1 which would appropriate funds to the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) for an online platform to facilitate professional learning for EOEL's public pre-kindergarten program educators.**

Decades of research indicate the long-lasting positive role that early education programs have on children. These programs develop communication skills, lay the foundations for numeracy and literacy, and can serve to identify students in need of early intervention services. Establishing these skills early not only helps ensure future academic success but save money. With 90% of the brain formed by age five, early education programs reduce the need for more costly interventions later in a student's career.

Providing quality early education services requires highly qualified educators. While trainings and continuing education provide information in the latest research-based methods, the current model fails to provide meaningful support during implementation—the very refinement and reinforcement teachers provide their students daily in the classroom.

This measure would fund an online platform for early learning educators, through which EOEL and educators could provide support, resources, and mentoring, particularly those on neighbor islands and in rural communities.

High-quality education begins with well-equipped teachers. Hawaii's continued investment in the EOEL, our keiki, and our kumu.

**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.*

**HB-2170-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 3:14:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/19/2018 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: