



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

February 22, 2018

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2170, H.D. 1 – Relating to Early Education
Hearing Date: February 22, 2018
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Location: Room 308

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, with a proposed amendment.

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, and as such, propose the insertion of a new section that reads:

"SECTION . The sum appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2018-2019 shall be deemed part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2018 for the executive office on early learning for the purposes of developing and submitting the executive budget request for the biennium budget for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The department of budget and finance shall consider the sum appropriated by this Act as if appropriated in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2018."

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

February 22, 2018

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

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 2170, HD1 – Relating to Early Education – SUPPORT**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308, February 22, 2018, 12:30 PM

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.

There is no debate that early learning opportunities have long lasting positive influence on children. We know, for example, that over 85 percent of a child's brain is developed by the age of five. Despite positive advances over the past four years, Hawaii still remains far behind other states in providing early childhood education.

To provide quality early education, however, we must invest in our early learning educators. This measure would fund an online platform for early learning educators, through which teachers could communicate and EOEL could provide resources for pre-k teachers, such as research, classroom materials, and trainings. This would enable more equitable access to the professional development opportunities and collaboration between peers that is often not available to our pre-k teachers, especially those on neighbor islands and in rural communities.

The State's continued investment in early learning is critical, and we therefore request that this cost for use of the platform be considered a recurring cost.

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: 2/21/2018 12:24:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony in Support of HB2170---Relating to Early Education, Feb. 22, 2018, 12:30
pm, Conference Room 308

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

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am the retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Over the past 10 years, I have served as a member of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and the Early Learning Advisory Board, which is now the Early Learning Board (ELB). As the chair of the ELB, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2170.

An EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten on-line platform for staff professional development provided for in HB2170 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 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 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

February 23, 2018



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

From: Phyllis Kawamoto

Re: Measure: H.B. No. 2170, H.D. 1 – Relating to Early Education
Hearing Date: February 22, 2018
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Location: Room 308

I write in strong support of H.B. No. 2170, which would provide funding for an online platform to facilitate professional learning for EOEL Public Pre-kindergarten Program educators.

I write this testimony as a private citizen and one who supports early learning. I have been an educator for the public schools for over thirty years. In those years, I've personally found that having access to professional development learning opportunities and face to face collaboration with my peers and other educational professionals as being crucial in improving my instructional practices. Without these collaborative opportunities, I would have felt very isolated in my teaching and in turn, I would not have been an effective teacher. Teaching is not a solitary act, it does take a "village" to support, nurture and cultivate high-quality educators. This online platform can help support teachers, especially in rural areas to have access to these opportunities that I was fortunate to have had. What is key to remember is that all educators have the right to access professional development learning opportunities and your zip code shouldn't deter your access.

We all want the very best for our youngest learners but in order to provide high-quality classrooms, we have to support the educators of these young children. This online platform can support the Pre-kindergarten teachers' ongoing learning and professional growth by providing access to classroom materials, research, and recordings of trainings and meetings. But most importantly, this platform would allow the Pre-kindergarten teachers to connect and collaborate with each other. This social connection and collaboration is key for a teacher's well-being and professional growth.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer written testimony on this bill.

February 22, 2018

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



From: Corinne Suwa Kalani
Kurtistown, Hawaii Island

Subject: **Measure:** H.B. No.2170 – Relating to Early Education
Hearing Date: February 22, 2018
Time: 12:30pm
Location: Room 308

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.

As a Department of Education resource teacher residing on the big island of Hawaii, I strongly support H.B. No. 2170.

Part of the Executive Office on Early Learning's work is to increase access to high quality early learning for children throughout the state. An integral part of high quality education is having qualified teachers knowledgeable in child development and best practices.

Having an online platform to facilitate professional learning for our public pre-kindergarten program educators is a necessity since many of our teachers live and work in rural areas across the state. Many of our teachers who reside on Hawaii island have to drive over 5 hours roundtrip for our professional development. An online platform would enable us to offer professional development more frequently, allow easy access to our teachers, and offer an avenue for teachers to offer support to one another.

I have been a participant in a system of online learning through the University of Hawaii at Manoa Master's program in Curriculum Studies. It is only through the use of an online platform, I am able to work full-time to support my family and have accessibility to courses to support my professional growth. Despite living on the neighbor island, I receive the full attention of my professor as well as the support of my classmates. I would like the teachers that I service to have the same equitable access to the needed professional development and collaboration with their peers and coaches that are key to implementing a high-quality pre-Kindergarten program. Our keiki deserve no less.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify on this bill.