

February 13, 2018

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health & Human Services

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

Re: **H.B. 2507, HD1 – Relating to Preschools**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 13, 2018, 10:15 AM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing in support of H.B. 2507, HD1– Relating to Preschools.

H.B. 2507, HD1 is a necessary housekeeping bill to bring statute into conformity with previously enacted legislation and allow the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Director to ensure compliance with mandatory student immunization requirements. Since 2008, the Legislature has made clear its intent that the Early Learning Board and EOEL be responsible for preschool/pre-kindergarten. This bill would merely bring statute into conformity with the intent expressed through previously enacted legislation, such as:

- Legislation establishing an early learning system to be developed and administered by the Early Learning Board;
- Legislation establishing the EOEL
- Legislation establishing the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to be administered by EOEL

HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this measure, which further reaffirms the Legislature's intent that the Early Learning Board and EOEL be responsible for preschool/pre-kindergarten.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of HB2507---Relating to Preschool, Feb. 13, 10:15 am, Conference Room 329

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi 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. Although not serving as a spokesperson for the ELB, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2507.

This housekeeping bill would bring statute into conformity with previously enacted legislation that place the responsibility for preschool/pre-kindergarten with what is now the Early Learning Board and EOEL; past legislation includes,

Establishment of EOEL to “help the State meet its goal of providing a viable early learning system for the keiki of Hawaii” (Conference Committee Report No. 173 for S.B. No. 2545, enacted as Act 178, Regular Session of 2012), and tasking EOEL with developing a plan for the early learning system (section 302L-1.5, HRS, first enacted in 2012);

Establishment of the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to be administered by EOEL (section 302L-7, HRS, first enacted in 2015);

HB821, from 2015, another “house-keeping” bill transfers responsibilities from DOE to EOEL with particular emphasis upon federal funding; and,

Changing the Early Learning Advisory Board into a governing board, to “empower the Early Learning Advisory Board to take a more active role in directing consistent early childhood development policy and expand the public pre- kindergarten program”, recognizing that “a broad and consistent approach to early childhood development promotes the health and wellbeing of children” (Senate Standing Committee Report No. 1058 for H.B. No. 498, enacted as Act 202, Regular Session of 2017).

HB 2507 helps to clarify the intent of legislation to charge the Executive Office of Early Learning, under the governing authority of the Early Learning Board, to develop a state-wide early learning system with specific responsibility for a preschool and pre-K years.

Thank you again for this opportunity to support HB 2507.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Peters, EdD