



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

March 14, 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 500, HD1 – Relating to Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs
Hearing Date: March 15, 2017
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning and State Public Charter School Commission to enter into a memorandum of understanding to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms. (HB500 HD1)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) **supports** HB 500, HD1.

EOEL is in support of increasing access to high quality pre-kindergarten programs across the state. In the 2017-18 school year, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission plans to provide opportunities for 360 students to attend pre-kindergarten in the year before they are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. If funded, EOEL is willing to work with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission to implement this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HB500 HD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
Senate Committee on Education

March 15, 2017

2:45 PM

Room 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB500 HD1, which would provide funding to continue and expand the public prekindergarten program for public charter school students. **This measure helps to ensure continuation of a program that benefits young learners, and increases their likelihood of success in school and the larger community.**

In any given year, there are about 17,000 four-year-old children in Hawai‘i, and approximately half enter kindergarten without having attended preschool. Not surprisingly, a significant majority of public school kindergarten teachers report that their students are not ready for school. Encouraging greater preschool attendance may substantially increase our children’s chances of success in kindergarten and beyond: when provided with the opportunity for high-quality early childhood education, research has shown that children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten, reach higher levels of educational attainment, and contribute meaningfully to society, among other positive achievements.

In 2014, OHA wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), in support of the State’s successful application to the USDOE’s Preschool Development Grants Program. The State’s application proposed to improve kindergarten readiness with an ambitious yet achievable plan, to expand access to high-quality preschool classrooms in high-need communities through a charter school prekindergarten program. This measure will ensure funding for the continuation and expansion of the charter school prekindergarten program, which currently supports preschool classrooms in six charter schools, four of which are Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion schools. OHA understands that the State plans to establish additional preschool classrooms, including within three additional Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion schools.

OHA has been a strong supporter of Hawai‘i’s public charter schools, many of which provide a culturally-grounded education for Native Hawaiian and other children. Seventeen of the thirty-four public charter schools in Hawai‘i are Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian language immersion charter schools, in which OHA has invested over \$15,000,000 since FY 2006 (School Year 2005-2006). OHA has made this investment because research has shown that Hawaiian students exposed to culturally-driven

educational strategies have a stronger sense of socio-emotional well-being, deeper engagement with their schools, and a stronger commitment to civic activities in their community, factors which are directly tied to greater academic achievement.

This bill's proposed funding for preschool classrooms will allow a greater number of preschool-aged children, including Native Hawaiian students, to access the advantages of early childhood education.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB500 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali‘i, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

SUBJECT: HB 500. HD 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
Hearing Date: March 15, 2017
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Public Charter School Commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION’S POSTION: The State Public Charter School Commission **supports** HB 500, HD 1 – **Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**

HB 500, HD 1 will authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Public Charter School Commission to administer the prekindergarten classrooms in charter school. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the Federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

This MOU with the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) will ensure that quality measures will continue to align with those of the public pre-K programs in its jurisdiction.

In the federal grant from the United States Department of Education to establish 18 pre-kindergarten classrooms in charter schools, the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) was

charged with defining sustainability plans once the federal grant ended. A sub-committee work group has been working on such plans for the past year in partnership with the State Public Charter School Commission. A combination of factors has made this work more urgent: first, federal funding was secured for only three years of the four-year grant time frame; and, second, the change in administration in Washington, D.C. has raised questions about the viability of the fourth year funding.

Currently, the State Public Charter School Commission is in Year Two of the grant with six schools implementing prekindergarten programs. To date, 117 children have been enrolled. Beginning in school year 2017-2018, the grant will be in its full implementation phase with 18 classrooms implementing pre-K programs in charter schools.

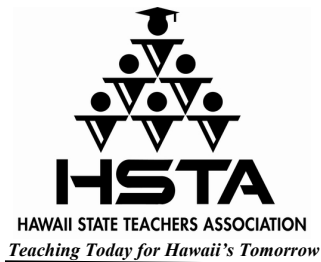
Providing the funding to sustain this high quality prekindergarten program beyond federal funding means that potentially 360 children and families across the state of Hawaii will benefit annually from high quality preschool experiences. This nearly doubles the number of children enrolled in public pre-K programs in Hawaii.

Testimony from a mother of a student currently attending the Kualapu'u Public Charter School prekindergarten program urges support for this program: "Please keep our pre-K program. It's an excellent program, excellent teacher and an administrator who is behind it 100% and with a community that needs it. We are a small community, and we don't have many options. So, please, please, please continue to fund the pre-K. We are very invested."

Another mom from our prekindergarten program at Na Wai Ola Public charter in Volcano, Hawaii shared: "It's amazing! She's gone from shy, timid and very enclosed to just free-spirited. She talks to people and makes friends. For me personally as a mom, to see your child bloom... she used to keep to herself. Now, she's goes out and she wants to learn. She wants to go to school. To see her just share what she learned throughout the school day and bring it home and say, 'I want to show you (be)cause this is what I learned in class.' The whole family is a part of her learning. It's something special."

For these reasons, the State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President

Justin Hughey
Vice President

Amy Perruso
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: HB 500, HD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017

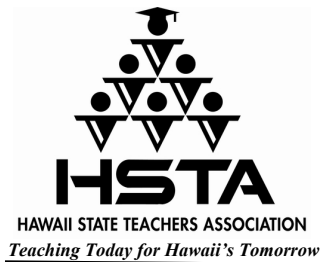
COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 500, HD 1**, relating to public prekindergarten programs.

As noted by an MIT working group on the topic, investments in early childhood education pay dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting economic vitality. Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs. Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Preschool brings an approximately \$4.20 return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services, especially in terms of longterm life skills. At the national level, every dollar spent on early childhood education saves taxpayers up to \$13.00 in future costs, including lowered healthcare costs, reduced rates of educational remediation and prison incarceration, and higher productivity. Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not only helps working parents fulfill their responsibilities, but is essential for building a 21st century labor force.

Early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students. According to the High Scopes/Perry Preschool longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to



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quality early learning programs were 20 percent more likely to graduate from high school, 14 percent more likely to be employed, and 24 percent less likely to have been incarcerated by age 40 than peers without such access. As the Department of education continues to streamline educational accountability, particularly through the possible institution of merit pay and high-stakes evaluations for teachers and educational officers, it is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

Utilizing public school resources for the provision of early learning will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certificated and licensed public school teachers. Additionally, public early learning programs will not set a precedent for the future adoption of school voucher programs at the elementary and secondary school level. Finally, this proposal does not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions, ensuring that the state will not become ensnared in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to programs that promote theological viewpoints. Public early learning will, instead, include research-based, developmentally appropriate, secular practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children. Public early learning programs currently exist in nineteen public schools, with only five programs on O’ahu and only one on Maui and Lana’i each. Since charter schools are public schools, funding public prekindergarten programming in the eighteen preschool classes currently offered in charter schools will expand access to children who may not be served by DOE preschool programs existing outside of their families’ geographic locations.

Because early childhood education is beneficial to lifetime learning, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:15 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: jeannine@hawaiiicharterschools.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Souki	Hawaii Public Charter School Network	Support	Yes

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

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 500, HD 1, Relating to Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs-- Hearing March 15, 2017, 2:45PM, Conference Room 229

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the ELAB in support of HB 500, HD 1, Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs. This bill requires the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Charter School Commission to administer the charter school pre-kindergarten classrooms and appropriate funding to continue the 18 charter school prekindergarten classrooms beginning with the 2018-19 school year

An MOU with the EOEL establishing it as the administering body of the charter school prekindergarten classrooms is a necessary to ensure that quality measures align with those of the public pre-K program currently under its jurisdiction.

In the federal grant from the United States Department of Education to establish pre-kindergarten classrooms in charter schools, the ELAB was charged with defining sustainability plans once the federal grant ended. A sub-committee work group has been working on such plans for the past year. A combination of factors has made this work more urgent: first, federal funding was secured for only 3 years of the 4-year grant time frame; and, second, the change in administration in Washington has raised questions about the viability of fourth year funding which seemed more promising prior to the election.

This is year two of the grant and 6 classrooms are up-and-running; an additional 12 will be launched this next year. Already, testimonials from families indicate the value of the program despite the few children being served. Currently 120 children are enrolled and by the start of school year 2017-18, another 240 children will be served, which almost doubles the number of children enrolled in public pre-K in our State. The possibility of not continuing the 18 classrooms because of a lack of funding would be a disservice to our *keiki* and their families. And of critical importance is that the schools in which these pre-K classrooms are being opened are located in areas of limited-to-no access to high quality early childhood programs and schools report very few have preschool experience prior to Kindergarten.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 500.

Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Advisory Board, Chair



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Date: March 15, 2017

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

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

RE: **HB 500, HD1 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**

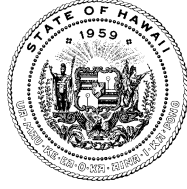
E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kahele, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Group of Kamehameha Schools.

HB 500, HD1, relating to public pre-kindergarten program requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to administer charter school pre-kindergarten classrooms. It appropriates funding to continue funding of public pre-kindergarten classrooms. We are writing in **support** of this measure.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of our 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.

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.



STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter
P O Box 260
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6906

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

From: Lydia Trinidad 
Principal
Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School

SUBJECT: HB 500. HD 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Hearing Date: March 15, 2017

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 229

Purpose of Bill: Authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Public Charter School Commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

On behalf of Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai, **I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB 500 H.D. 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.**

HB 500 H.D. 1 will authorize the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten

programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Research shows that children who attend preschool are better prepared for school and in life. Long-term studies suggest that preschool positively impacts important societal outcomes such as high school graduation, completed years of education, earnings, and reduced crime and teen pregnancy.

Another important aspect of **HB 500 H.D. 1** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500 H.D. 1** includes families with four-year-old children whose income is three hundred fifty percent or less of the federal poverty guideline, rather than the current two hundred percent income requirement. This change will increase access to high quality prekindergarten programs for children and families who may be living in remote, rural areas of our state.

Sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that 19 children will have FREE access to an early education, especially in a rural area that has high poverty. Many of our children need an early start to learning to give them an early start and edge out of poverty.

Thank you for your support and consideration of **HB 500**.



March 13, 2017

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

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

Re: **HB 500 HD 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, March 15, 2017, 2:45 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing to support HB 500 HD 1 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500, HD 1 will authorize the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Public Charter School Commission to administer the prekindergarten classrooms in charter school. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the Federal Preschool Development Grant.

This bill would help to solidify Hawaii's early learning program and allow for much needed expansion of the public prekindergarten program into other areas of the state and charter schools. The state's public charter schools need to secure a more stable source of funding for the pre-kindergarten expansion currently being funded through a multi-year federal grant.

There is no debate that early learning opportunities have long lasting positive influence on children. Over 85% of a child's brain is developed by the age of five and yet almost 50 % of Hawaii's four-year-olds receive little or no formal school readiness experience before entering kindergarten. Despite positive advances over the past few years, Hawaii remains far behind other states in providing early childhood education. Ultimately, this means that our DOE system must devote time and resources to bringing these children up to speed with their counterparts who have had some form of early learning experience. By investing in our children early, we help save our DOE time and money.

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 Hawaii Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2017policyagenda>.



ADA

HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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PO. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

March 14 , 2017

TO: Honorable Chair Kidani and Members of the Education Committee

RE: HB500 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs
Support for Hearing on March 15

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support HB 500 as it would sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019. We believe that children who attend prekindergarten are better prepared for school and in life. Research indicates that prekindergarten positively impacts important societal outcomes such as high school graduation rates, earnings, reduced crime and teen pregnancy. Therefore we support all expansion of public Prekindergarten programs of which charter schools are one part.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



Native Hawaiian Education Council

March 14, 2017

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Ka`aialii Kahele, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i Senate
Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload - EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: HB500_HD1 Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **SUPPORTS**
HB500_HD1 based on our:

- A. **Support of the Legislature's actions** to strengthen early learning in Hawai'i by: authorizing the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the State Public Charter School Commission to administer the charter school pre-kindergarten classrooms; appropriate funds; and administer and manage such classrooms by both entities.
- B. **Platform and priorities to: Intensify Systems Engagement**, actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities; and to engage in early learning planning and implementation work.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) or mobile (808.221.5477) telephone with any questions.



Michelle N. Kidani
Ka`aialii Kahele
March 14, 2017
Page 2

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino

Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:13 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for EDU on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	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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