

HB500
Relating to
Public
Prekindergart
en Programs

HB500

Measure Title: RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

Report Title: Charter Schools; Public Prekindergarten Program; Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission; Executive Office on Early Learning; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

Companion: [SB1152](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: EDN, FIN

Introducer(s): TAKUMI, Ohno

Sort by Date	Status Text
1/20/2017	H Pending introduction.
1/23/2017	H Pass First Reading
1/23/2017	H Referred to EDN, FIN, referral sheet 2
2/2/2017	H Bill scheduled to be heard by EDN on Wednesday, 02-08-17 2:00PM in House conference room 309.

S = Senate | **H** = House | **D** = Data Systems | **\$** = Appropriation measure | **ConAm** = Constitutional Amendment

Some of the above items require Adobe Acrobat Reader. Please visit [Adobe's download page](#) for detailed instructions.

HB500

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has made
2 steady progress in investing in early learning over the years.
3 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's youngest children
4 can benefit from early learning programs before they enter
5 kindergarten at age five. Act 109, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
6 set forth the history of early learning in the State of Hawaii
7 and statutorily created the public prekindergarten program. Act
8 109 also authorized charter schools to use their available
9 classrooms for public preschool programs.

10 The legislature additionally finds that in 2014, the Hawaii
11 state public charter school commission applied for and received
12 a federal grant from the United States Department of Education
13 to establish prekindergarten classrooms in charter schools. The
14 award provided a four year grant with funding for the first
15 three years. There are six prekindergarten classrooms currently
16 operating in charter schools. Twelve additional classrooms will
17 be added beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.



1 The purpose of this Act is to:

2 (1) Require the executive office on early learning to
3 enter into a memorandum of understanding with the
4 Hawaii state public charter school commission to
5 administer the charter school prekindergarten
6 classrooms; and

7 (2) Appropriate moneys to continue the eighteen charter
8 school prekindergarten classrooms beginning with the
9 2018-2019 school year.

10 SECTION 2. The executive office on early learning shall
11 enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state
12 public charter school commission to administer the charter
13 school prekindergarten classrooms.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,900,000 or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2018-2019, to be expended as follows:

19 (1) \$1,386,567 to hire eighteen teachers and eighteen
20 educational assistants for eighteen charter school
21 prekindergarten classrooms and to provide substitutes



H.B. NO. 500

1 for ten professional development days for teachers and
2 educational assistants;

3 (2) \$773,433 for leadership professional development to
4 build charter school administrators' understanding of
5 high quality early childhood practices, supplies,
6 school overhead, and facility maintenance expenses to
7 meet the group child care licensing requirements of
8 the department of human services; and

9 (3) \$740,000, for the administration and management of the
10 charter school prekindergarten classrooms by the
11 executive office on early learning in partnership with
12 the Hawaii state public charter school commission.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive
14 office of early learning for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

16

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2017



H.B. NO. 500

Report Title:

Charter Schools; Public Prekindergarten Program; Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission; Executive Office on Early Learning; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



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

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

SUBJECT: HB 500 – RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
Hearing Date: February 8, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 309

Purpose of Bill: Requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

The State Public Charter School Commission appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs

HB 500 will allow 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.

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. Currently 116 children are enrolled. Providing the funding to sustain this high quality prekindergarten program means that potentially 360 children and families across the state of Hawaii will benefit from high quality preschool experiences. This nearly doubles the number of children enrolled in public pre-K programs in Hawaii.

Another important aspect of **HB 500** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500** 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.

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 Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

February 7, 2017

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: HB 500 – Relating to Public Pre-Kindergarten Programs
Hearing Date: February 8, 2017
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 309

Purpose of Bill: Requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Appropriates moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

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

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.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 500, RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309

TESTIFIER(S): Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or
Melissa J. Kolonie, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms; and (2) appropriate moneys to continue funding of public prekindergarten classrooms.

Article V, section 1, of the Hawaii Constitution states, “[t]he executive power of the State shall be vested in a governor.” Article III, section 1, grants the Legislature with the legislative power of the State. “The separation of powers doctrine is not expressly set forth in any single constitutional provision, but like the federal government, Hawaii's government is one in which the sovereign power is divided and allocated among three co-equal branches.” Hawaii Insurers Council v. Lingle, 120 Haw. 51, 69 (2008) (internal citations omitted). “The doctrine provides that a department . . . may not exercise powers not so constitutionally granted, which from their essential nature, do not fall within its division of governmental functions, unless such powers are properly incidental to the performance by it of its own appropriate functions.” Id. at 70. The power to enter into agreements and to carry out the purpose of the state agency rests with the executive branch.

The Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning is responsible for “[c]ontracting for services that may be necessary for the purposes of this section

[section 302L-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes], including through master contracts with other state agencies receiving federal and state funds for programs and services for early learning, and purchase of service agreements with appropriate agencies.” Section 302L-1.5(c)(7), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission, as the statewide authorizer, “[has] the power to make and execute contracts and all other instruments necessary or convenient for the exercise of its duties and functions under this chapter [chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.]” Section 302D-5(c), HRS. This bill requires two state agencies, both of which have the authority to enter into contracts to carry out the purposes of their respective statutes, to enter into an agreement to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Consequently, the bill encroaches into the internal management and operation of two executive branch agencies.

We respectfully recommend amending the provision that requires the Executive Office on Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission, to rather allow the two agencies to enter into a memorandum of understanding.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



HB500
RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
House Committee on Education

February 8, 2017

2:00 PM

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** on HB500, which provides 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.

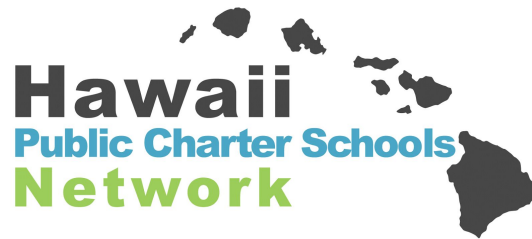
In 2014, OHA wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), in support of the State's successful application to the USDOE's Preschool Development Grants Program. The State's application proposed to improve kindergarten readiness with an ambitious yet achievable plan, to expand access to 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 in at least 12 additional public charter schools, three of which are 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.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 7, 2017

To: Hon. Roy Takumi, Chair
Hon. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Hon. Richard P. Creagan, Member
Hon. Richard H.K. Onishi, Member
Hon. Mark J. Hashem, Member
Hon. Kaniela Ing, Member
Hon. Justin H. Woodson, Member
Hon. Lauren Kealohilani Matsumoto, Member
Hon. Takashi Ohno, Member
House Committee on Education

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

**Re: HB 500 - Relating Public Prekindergarten Programs.
Conference Room 309 – Hawaii State Capitol – Feb. 8, 2017, 2:00 P.M.**

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we respectfully submit our testimony in support of [HB 500](#), Relating to public prekindergarten programs.

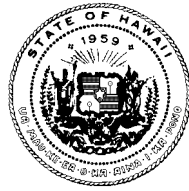
This bill requires the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This is an important step to safeguard significant federal investments to expand early learning and add pre-kindergarten classes in Hawaii's public charter schools and build upon state investments in DOE pre-kindergarten programs prioritizing services for at-risk children and families around our state.

Increasing opportunities for keiki to succeed by providing a high quality early learning environment yields better long-term success.

HPCSN works to support Hawaii's public charter schools and to be a voice for children and families that seek choice in an independent public school setting. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and respectfully urges your passage of this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DAVID GIBSON
HO'OKAKO'O CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SIONE THOMPSON
CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNA WINSLOW
PRINCIPAL

STATE OF HAWAII
Kamaile Academy PCS
85-180 Ala Akau Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792
808-697-7110

February 4, 2017

To: Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Anna Winslow, Principal
Kamaile Academy Public Conversion Charter School

Re: **HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**
Hawaii State Capitol, February 8, 2017, Room 309 2:00 p.m.

On behalf of Kamaile Academy PCS, I am writing to support HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

Kamaile Academy Public Conversion Charter School is in strong support of **HB 500**, which will allow 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** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500** 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 Kamaile Academy PCS can continue creating positive outcomes for our high need PreK students. Historically, students entering kindergarten at Kamaile are at least 2 years behind academically, socially, and emotionally, and the majority of students have no preschool experience. Having a high quality prekindergarten program will afford our students, families, and community a better chance for a brighter future.



**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

February 4, 2017

To: Rep. Roy M, Takumi, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: Lydia Trinidad, Principal
Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School

Re: **HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**
Hawaii State Capitol, February 8, 2017, Room 309 2:00 p.m.

**On behalf of Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School, I am writing to SUPPORT
HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.**

HB 500 will allow 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** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500** 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**.



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauili ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

February 3, 2017

To: Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

From: I. Meahilahila Kelling, Director
Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS

Re: **HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room #309, February 8, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

On behalf of Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, we are writing to support HB 500 – Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.

HB 500 will allow 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** is its expanded support to working families. **HB 500** 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 would allow us to continue serving students at a younger age, contributing to building a seamless transition into Kindergarten. We recognize and have experienced the positive impact that dual language learning has on students at an earlier age and we are hopeful that our program will be sustained after the Charter School Preschool grant terms end.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SB1152.



16-120 'Ōpūkaha'ia St
Kea'au, HI 96749
(808) 982-4260
(808) 966-7821
www.nawahi.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

Dr. Kēhaulani
'Aipia-Peters,
Pelekikena

Kēhaulani Shintani,
Hope Pelekikena

Kaleo Hayashida,
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Leilani Ka'apuni,
Pu'ukū

Kamalei Hayes

Dr. Kauanoe
Kamanā

Nāmaka Rawlins

Dr. Pila Wilson

Pelehonuamea
Harman

No 'Ane'i Ko
Kākou Ola!

Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Date of Hearing: 02-08-2017

*Testimony of Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters, Governing Board Chair
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u Iki LPCS*

HB500 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs
STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Takumi and Members of the House Committee on Education:

My name is Dr. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters. I am the Chair of the Public Charter School Board of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani-'ōpu 'u (Nāwahī), the largest Native American language medium/immersion school in the country. We have three campuses: Puna; Wai'anae; and Waimea, Hawai'i. On behalf of Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u Iki LPCS, I am writing to **support HB500 relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs.**

HB 500 will allow 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.

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Sustaining this high quality prekindergarten program means that schools like Nāwahī will continue to prepare young children for kindergarten education taught through the medium of Hawaiian and positively impact educational outcomes at the secondary level such as high graduation rates and high rates of students who continue on to post-secondary education. I strongly urge passage of HB 500.



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: HB500– Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, February 8, 2017, 2:00 PM

Position: Action Strategy supports HB500 Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs

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 HB500 because public charter prekindergarten (PreK) programs are an important component of an effective, comprehensive early childhood system.

Hawaii's charter school PreK program is supported by a federal grant from the US Department of Education. Unfortunately, those federal grant funds may no longer be available for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. State funding is needed to continue the public charter school PreK program during those years and to accomplish the original vision for the program, which includes offering the program in a total of 18 classrooms starting in the 2017-2018 school year.

HB500 provides that the funds will be administered by the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL), which will enter into a partnership with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission for this purpose. EOEL is well-positioned for this task and the purpose of that office includes overseeing PreK programs in public schools.

Action Strategy is committed to ensuring Hawaii's young children are healthy, safe and ready to learn and HB500 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Karen Worthington, JD

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:53 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kumu.puanani@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Puanani Johnston	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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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 11:37 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: dgamiao@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

HB500

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am supporting HB 500 on behalf as a parent for Kualapuu School, Molokai.

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 11:34 AM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: dgamiao@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 11:44 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: markolson68@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mark olson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Johnessa Quintua and I live on the Island of Molokai. I am sharing with you my testimony that I support HB 500 bill. I was given the opportunity to have 2 children attend Kualapuu Pre-K Program which was a blessing. My first child was enrolled the first year that they opened at Kualapuu School, my second child is currently enrolled this school year 2016-2017. It is such a wonderful thing to have this program at Kualapuu School because the children is already familiar with the school and the school schedule, they also know the staff which makes them feel more comfortable. The children love the environment and the atmosphere. The teachers for the program are wonderful and the kids love them... Having the Pre-K Program and taught my children so much and they have advanced quickly when they transition in to Kindergarden.

Please continue to funding the Pre-K classrooms especially Kualapuu School. The children love it, I know that my children love the school, the teachers and the staff. Please SUPPORT HB 500.

Mahalo,

Johnessa Quintua

(parent of pre-k student)

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 9:41 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: emiliekdavis@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emilie Davis	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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Representative Roy Takumi , Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 500, Relating to Early Learning -- Hearing
February 8, 2017, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Har 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, 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 experienced 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

EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 2:21 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: kumu.puanani@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Puanani Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:53 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: hazelynhernandez@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM

HB500

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hazelyn Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. I am a pre-k teacher on the island of Molokai at Kualapu'u Public Charter School. Our island is scarce in early childhood education because of lack of funding for public programs. Please support our 4-5 year olds who need it the most. Mahalo!

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EDNtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 1:43 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Cc: jflowers7733@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB500 on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM*

HB500

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EDN on Feb 8, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Wayne FlowersJr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PERSON TESTIFYING: Robyn S. B. Chun
DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2017
TIME: 2:00 PM
LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 309

TITLE OF BILL: HB 500 RELATING TO PUBLIC PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

Honorable Chair, Roy Takumi, Vice Chair, Takashi Ohno and Committee members

I am writing in **support** of **HB 500 Relating to Relating to Public Prekindergarten Programs**

I appreciate the forward thinking of our state lawmakers. Supporting early learning is a long term investment in the well-being of our state. HB 500 asks for the Executive Office of Early Learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission over the administration and funding of the prekindergarten program initiated when Hawaii received a U.S. DOE Preschool Development Grant in 2014. A memorandum of understanding could enhance the coordination between the state and federal initiatives and help to maintain momentum in early learning during a time when there is uncertainty about continued federal funding.

The funds requested to continue this initiative (\$2,900,000 per. year) are substantial. While entering into an MOU the program will facilitate a coordination and consolidation of efforts across these sectors, it will also create more oversight responsibility for the Executive Office of Early Learning at a time when the EOEL is still trying to recover critical infrastructure positions that were lost in the transition from the Abecrombie to the Ige administration. Therefore, I suggest that provisions be included in the bill that enable the EOEL to successfully provide oversight for the program.

I also hope that the funding and expansion of the federally funded program will not compete with funding and expansion of other state initiatives such as the current state funded PreK program, support for FCILs, and Preschool Open Doors programs. The funding of each option needs to be part of an overall approach to creating a coordinated early learning system that serves the needs of families with children birth through 8-years-olds. The legislature must also allow provisions for a shared professional development infrastructure to support the workforce needed to ensure quality of services across all programs.

I support increased funding of early learning programs for young children with thoughtful coordination and infrastructure to ensure that we maximize the impact of public investments.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

I am a Teacher at a community-based preschool serving Native Hawaiian families in the Ko'olaupoko district and I strongly support this bill. As an educator, a graduate student and a Native Hawaiian, I see the value in and important role of charter schools, particularly for our children who do not fit the sometimes, narrow learning environment public schools provide. By extending funding to prekindergarten programs, more children can become school ready. Research has shown that quality education is critical for life-long success outcomes and overall economic success per the National Conference of State Legislators 2016 report:

“Continuing positive long-term effects of high-quality early childhood care and education on low-income 3- and 4-year-olds. Overall, the study recently documented a return to society of more than \$17 for every dollar invested in the early care and education program, primarily because of the large continuing effect on the reduction of male crime. These new figures are a dramatic increase in long-term returns.”

Highlights from the study's major findings include:

- Economic/Workforce: More of the group who received high-quality early education than the non-program group were employed at age 40 (76 percent vs. 62 percent).
- Education: More of the group who received high-quality early education, particularly females, graduated from high school than the non-program group.
- Crime Prevention: The group who received high-quality early education had significantly fewer arrests than the non-program group (36 percent vs. 55 percent were arrested five times or more).

For more information: www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/PerryAge40SumWeb.pdf.

Hawai'i needs to provide and support quality early education programs for young children for an investment in children is an investment in our futures.

Mahalo,

Kali M. Linder

47-028 Kamehameha Hwy.

Kane'ohe, HI 96744

808.228.6121

Klinder@hawaii.edu