



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

February 7, 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:** S.B. No. 2226 – Relating to Preschool Educator Training Requirements  
**Hearing Date:** February 7, 2018  
**Time:** 2:51 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 229

**Purpose of Bill:** Requires specialized training in early childhood education for all teachers and educational assistants within the Executive Office on Early Learning Public Pre-Kindergarten Program. Effective January 1, 2020.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION:** The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports H.B. No. 2507 with a suggested amendment.

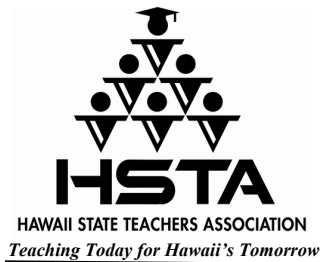
We appreciate the Legislature's support of EOEL's work to ensure high quality in early learning, and specifically in the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program (Program). This bill reflects EOEL's plans to require all teachers and educational assistants in the Program to have coursework in early childhood education.

Research has shown that teachers are most effective in the classroom, and ultimately in improving child outcomes, when they have bachelor's degrees or higher, with specialized training or licensure in early childhood education.

EOEL is working to ensure there will be a pool of teachers who have completed the applicable early childhood education coursework before such requirements take effect. We are partnering with our institutions of higher education to increase opportunities for educators to access coursework in early childhood education through hybrid options that will allow them to work during the day and participate in online coursework with face-to-face meetings on evenings or weekends. Through a partnership between EOEL and UH Mānoa, one such hybrid option will be offered beginning in fall 2018.

**As such, we respectfully request an amendment to the effective date to July 1, 2022** – when the first cohort of students is anticipated to complete the program that begins this fall.

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



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2226 - RELATING TO PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR TRAINING  
REQUIREMENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2226**, relating to preschool educator training requirements.

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 long-term 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

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 advance efforts to close our state's achievement gap, 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.

In mandating that all public preschool teachers have received early childhood education training, this measure will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certified and licensed public school teachers. Early learning will be carried out using research-based and developmentally appropriate methods that are associated with better educational outcomes for children, and will be directed by professionals who are highly skilled at managing complex classroom environments.

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

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

Re: Testimony in Support SB 2226, Relating to Preschool Educator Training Requirements---  
February 7, 2018, Conference Room 229, 2:51 pm.

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Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele 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 at this time, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2226 with amendment.

I recommend support of this bill, including the amendment suggested by the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) that the effective date be changed to July 1, 2022. The EOEL wishes to ensure that the workforce has the capacity to meet the requirements. The delayed effective date will provide the opportunity to develop a pool of teachers who will have completed the appropriate early childhood education course work to satisfy the requirements of the legislation. EOEL is partnering with higher education institutions to provide opportunities for educators to complete the coursework while also working during the day.

I appreciate the Legislature's support of EOEL efforts to ensure high quality early learning, specifically for the Public Pre-Kindergarten. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2226.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Peters, EdD

**SB-2226**

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 7:27:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2018 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl		Support	No

Comments:

I support this idea as we should have qualified people in all positions. THE question is WILL they be paid equitably and fairly? Too often, preschool and early educators are paid the least when they have one of the most valuable and foundational positions. Set a standard that we in Hawai'i believe that our early educators should be and will be compensated well. For too long because many early educators are women, it has been felt that their pay did not need to be high. Time to have a livable wage for educators and especially early childhood.

C. Burghardt

Master's in Early Childhood, retired educator