



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/18/2019
Time: 03:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Judiciary

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1346, HD2 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Prohibits the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive Office on Early Learning's Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances. (HB1346 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the HB 1346, HD2 as it aligns to its vision that ensures all of Hawai'i's children are provided with opportunities that foster health, safety, education, school readiness and success.

The Department believes that young children thrive in an environment with stable, supportive and caring adults who understand how preschoolers learn. Expulsions and suspensions in early childhood settings threaten the development of these positive relationships, disrupt the learning process, and deny children access to critical supports that a high-quality early childhood education can provide. Further, expulsion and suspension is not an effective nor developmentally appropriate intervention for young children.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education released a joint policy statement (source: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/policy-statement-ece-expulsions-suspensions.pdf>) that supports fostering the social-emotional and behavioral development of all children and eliminating expulsion and suspension practices in early childhood settings.

The Department remains fully committed to working with other agencies and organizations to ensure that Hawai'i's preschoolers are provided with opportunities that foster health, safety, early childhood education, school readiness, and success.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1346, HD2.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 17, 2019

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 1346, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION

Hearing Date: March 18, 2019

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Location: Room 229

Bill Description: Prohibits the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive Office on Early Learning's Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in strong support of H.B. 1346, H.D. 2.

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 ensure 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.

Included in EOEL's responsibilities is administration of the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program. **We are wholeheartedly requesting that this prohibition on suspension and expulsion be imposed on ourselves.**

The rate at which children are expelled from state-funded preschool or prekindergarten across the nation is alarming – a rate more than three times that of their peers in kindergarten through grade 12. Many more children are suspended, with the data demonstrating severe racial disparities. It is important to note that "(g)irls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander represent 30 percent or more of all out-of-school suspensions even though they have a much smaller total population in preschool than girls in other racial or ethnic groups" (U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, 2014).

A study published in 2005 by Walter S. Gilliam at Yale University Child Study Center ranked Hawaii 17th in terms of states with high numbers of preschool expulsions. For every 1,000 children in Hawaii, 7.56 children were expelled from pre-k settings (6.67 = national average) and 14.86% of pre-k teachers reported expelling a student (10.39% = national average).

The EOEL Public Pre-K Program specifically prioritizes our underserved and at-risk populations – those children who can benefit the most from early learning – and suspending or expelling them would not only leave them with no early learning opportunities but send them a completely wrong message that may affect them for a lifetime.

We note that other states have also introduced and enacted legislation to prohibit suspension/expulsion in the early years, and that the National Conference of State Legislatures supports states in the crafting of policies that prohibit suspension and expulsion. The federal Departments of Health and Human Services, and Education also issued a joint policy statement in 2014 to support states and localities in prohibiting suspension and expulsion, "with state and local recommendations to address expulsion and suspension in early learning settings ... affirm(ing) the Departments' efforts to prevent and eventually eliminate expulsion and suspension in all early childhood settings and support young children's social, emotional, and behavioral development."

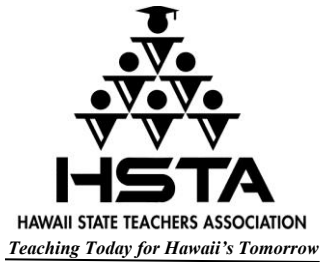
It recognized that suspensions and expulsions "may be products of misguided or absent policies and/or insufficient training and support services for staff, especially in managing challenging behavior, recognizing trauma, and promoting social and emotional development." Research has shown an association between program and teacher quality, and suspensions/expulsions.

We also acknowledge that in isolation, legislation is not enough to address the issue of suspension and expulsion. Especially because the Program targets our underserved and at-risk children, we work with the educators in the Program to prevent suspensions and expulsions by arming them with the competencies to work with children who do not come from optimal backgrounds. We provide them with professional learning support and work with school leadership on staffing so they are able to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. We have also been partnering with the University of Hawaii system to strengthen the pipeline of qualified early childhood educators. When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, these children who can benefit the most from early learning are rejected at an even earlier age and their families are left without options.

Since the start of the EOEL Public Pre-K Program in fall 2014, we have had some cases in which a school wanted to consider exiting a child participating in the Program. EOEL provided support and guidance to help the teacher more appropriately address challenging behaviors and better support the children, which, as mentioned, is instrumental to avoiding suspension/expulsion ... and the children ended up staying at the school in the Program.

A long-standing and continuing practice in Head Start is not to suspend or expel any child.

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



Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

RE: HB 1346, HD2 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
Chair Kidani, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HB 1346, HD2, relating to education.

HB 1346, HD2 would prohibit the suspension and expulsion of children participating in the Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten Program, except in limited circumstances.

According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children, every year, as many as 8,710 three- and four year-old children nationwide may be expelled from their state funded preschool or prekindergarten classroom. These suspensions and expulsions are occurring at a rate more than three times that of their peers in kindergarten through grade twelve, according to a joint statement drafted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, with support from a host of other national organizations regarded as leaders in the field of early childhood education. They also have higher suspensions rates than their peers in kindergarten through twelfth-grade. These expulsions and suspensions have disproportionately impacted minority students nationwideⁱ.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association understands that the Early Learning Public Prekindergarten Program was implemented to help ensure that students, especially those at-risk, have the building blocks to thrive during their entire education career. We want to ensure these nationwide trends do not happen here in Hawaii, thus we support the Executive Office of Early Learning ensuring these practices are prohibited in our state. Our public PreKindergarten programs need more support for our keiki and their teachers, not more suspensions and expulsions.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **supports** HB 1346, HD2.

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To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Morcado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** H.B. No. 1346 H.D. 2 – Relating to Early Childhood Education
Hearing Date: March 18, 2019
Time: 3:15 pm
Location: Room 229

Description: Prohibits the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive Office on Early Learning’s Public Prekindergarten Program except under limited circumstances.

Early Learning Board Position: Support

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the ELB in support of H.B. No. 1346 H.D. 2

This bill reflects national guidelines and best practices as well as regulations in other states which have enacted legislation to prohibit suspension/expulsion in the early years such as Illinois and Ohio. It is modeled after federal law governing the Head Start Program and aligns the Executive Office on Early Learning’s Public Education Prekindergarten program with the Department of Health and Human Services and Education Departments’ joint policy statement in 2014 “affirm(ing) the Departments efforts to prevent and eventually eliminate expulsion and suspension in all early childhood settings and support young children’s social, emotional and behavioral development.”

Educators are becoming more informed about, and attuned to the social emotional needs of children, recognizing their impact on learning. Children dealing with trauma or toxic home conditions are not ready to learn and often preoccupied, not able to focus on learning. It is not unusual for children who bring these problems to school to “act out.” In young children, especially, it is often difficult to determine if such behaviors are developmental in nature or issues of genuine concern. Expulsion and suspension are often responses to challenging behaviors of this type.

Research indicates that prekindergarten expulsion and suspension of children at this critical juncture in their growth and development are often repeated throughout a student’s school

history and associated with negative educational and life outcomes. It also demonstrates that there are racial and gender disparities, with boys receiving a majority of out-of-school suspensions. Data from the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in 2014 revealed that Black, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander girls represented a higher percentage rate of out-of-school suspensions despite their smaller representation in the total girl population in preschool.

This bill's provisions for EOEL public Pre-Kindergarten programs seek to provide guidelines for school administrators to "short-circuit" expulsion/suspension practices with alternative processes to keep children in school and to support families searching to help children with challenging behaviors. The EOEL has made it a priority to prevent expulsion by providing professional learning support to educators in their Pre-K program, as well as work with school leadership, to recognize when challenging behaviors are truly serious and needing additional attention versus when they are within the natural developmental trajectory of all children. Suggested steps to keep children with challenging behaviors in school and resources to address individual needs has complemented the EOEL's efforts to work with UH in developing the competencies of future teachers needed to meet individual needs.

The ELB asks the Committee to move this bill forward.



March 17, 2019

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committees on Education and Judiciary

From: Laura Nevitt, Policy Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 1346– Relating to Early Childhood Education**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229, March 18, 2019 , 3:15 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1346, which would prohibit the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive of Early Learning's Public Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances.

This bill is following national guidelines and best practices on suspension and expulsion in early years.

Suspension and expulsion in these early years has long-term negative educational and life outcomes.

Hawaii ranks 17th in the nation

Girls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander experience expulsion at a higher rate

At HCAN, as an organization that advocates for all of Hawaii's children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn, we strongly believe that no child should be expelled or suspended at this early age.

For these reasons, HCAN asks that you pass H.B. 1346.

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

HB-1346-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 3:05:34 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1346. We need to do more for early child education. This bill helps ensure that all of our children are provided with opportunities to foster health, safety, education, school readiness and success. Please pass HB1346.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

To: Committee Chair Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Committee Vice Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Committee on Education
Committee Chair Senator Karl Rhoads
Committee on Judiciary Senator Glenn Wakai
Committee on Judiciary

Date: March 18, 2019

RE: **Support for HB 1346 HD 2; Relating to Early Childhood Education; Prohibits the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program**

The Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide public-private collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS brings together government and non-governmental organizations to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki. We strongly support HB 1346 HD 2, which prohibits the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive Office on Early Learning's (EOEL) Public Prekindergarten Program.

Research conducted across 40 states found a national rate of 6.7 children expelled per 1,000 in publicly funded prekindergarten programs—a rate triple that of expulsion of k-12 students. Research also finds there are equity issues and stark racial and gender disparities in suspension/expulsion practices. Boys receive more than three-quarters of out-of-school suspensions and girls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander represent 30 percent or more of all out-of-school suspensions even though they have a much smaller total population in preschool. Hawaii ranked 17th in terms of states with high numbers of preschool expulsions based on a study published in 2005 by Walter S. Gilliam at Yale University Child Study Center.

Suspension and expulsion may be “products of misguided or absent policies and/or insufficient training and support services for staff, especially in managing challenging behavior, recognizing trauma, and promoting social and emotional development.” It is critical to support the professional development of staff so they can best support keiki and our families. Moreover, staff should exercise all options possible to support keiki, and prioritize collaboration with parents/caregivers and other appropriate resources before decided to suspend or expel a child.

We support the amendments made to HB 1346 HD 2 and prohibit the suspension/expulsion of children participating in EOEL's Public Prekindergarten Program. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

HB-1346-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:56:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wanatoshia Everage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon. I am Wanatoshia Everage, a Parent and Community leader, and I strongly support House Bill 1346.

As a 3 year old, my son was threatened with suspension from a child care facility because of biting. We met with the director of the facility and teachers within the room to discuss the root cause of why this behavior was occurring. Fortunately, we were able to determine that his behavior was the result of his interaction with a specific child, who began biting him first. In this situation, we were able to resolve the issue prior to his suspension or expulsion from the program; however, this is not always the case. Children are being suspended and expelled without affording the parent the opportunity to advocate for their child. Furthermore, minority children are being disproportionately suspended and expelled from schools when exhibiting the same or lesser behaviors of children from the majority race.

The Department of Health and Human Services created a joint policy statement in 2014, which recognizes that suspensions and expulsions "may be products of misguided or absent policies and/or insufficient training and support services for staff, especially in managing challenging behavior, recognizing trauma, and promoting social and emotional development." Research has shown an association between program and teacher quality, and suspensions/expulsions.

In 2014, the American Academy of Pediatrics concluded that children with adverse childhood experiences, are more likely to have learning or behavioral issues. Adverse experiences can be counterbalanced with protective factors, such as healthy attachment relationships, which include parents and caregivers.

I respectfully request that the committee consider moving this bill forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1346.

LATE



**Parents And
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education & Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Monday, March 18, 2019; 3:15 p.m., Conference Room 209

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1346 HD 2– RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

We ask you to support HB 1346 which seeks to prohibit the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive Office on Early Learning's Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances. We strongly support this bill which aligns with national best practice and allows for each young child to be supported through his/her earliest learning experiences and be given the opportunity to fulfill his/her highest potential.

As a provider of Head Start and Early Head Start services, we believe in high-quality early childhood education opportunities for every child. We believe in each child's innate abilities and the critical importance of caring for all children and families, especially those who need the most support. Data shows that high-quality care and education during the earliest stages of a child's development provides a critical foundation for later educational and life success. Early learning programs play a key role in early detection and early intervention for students who display extreme and challenging behaviors and it is important that we work with families to address the underlying root causes of these behaviors and work with both students and families to explore and implement every reasonable modification to support the child.

Schools are places of learning where our youngest children along with their families should have every chance to succeed. High quality early learning programs, like Head Start and EOEL's public pre-K program, with strong training and professional development, have the capacity to train and support staff in dealing with challenging behaviors. They also provide the support for staff to proactively work with children and families to identify a child's needs, connect them with resources and employ effective strategies in the classroom that can best support each child. This bill is consistent with national best practice and the current Head Start mandates that our PACT programs currently adhere to and we believe that these practices are best for all high-quality early learning programs, including EOEL's public Pre-K program. We commend EOEL

for recognizing the importance of this measure and for committing to continued best practice. This bill provides an added measure to ensure that each child and their family has a chance to address issues early on with the help of highly-qualified education professionals and sets the foundation for future success, especially for those children who would not otherwise have access to early childhood.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, and poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 1346 HD 2**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

From: [Kay Lipps](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support HB1346, HD2
Date: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:12:15 AM



From: bumboocha@hawaii.rr.com <Kay Lipps>

Message:

As a parent, and preschool teacher for 35 years, I know there are better ways of to deal with children that have challenging behaviors then to suspend or expel them. Every child has the right to quality early childhood education!

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Rhoads and members of the Education and Judiciary Committees,

I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1346, which would prohibit the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive of Early Learning's Public Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances.

This bill is following national guidelines and best practices on suspension and expulsion in early years. Suspension and expulsion in these early years has long-term negative educational and life outcomes. Hawaii ranks 17th in the nation Girls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander experience expulsion at a higher rate At HCAN, as an organization that advocates for all of Hawaii's children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn, we strongly believe that no child should be expelled or suspended at this early age.

Please pass this bill today!

Kay Lipps

Preschool Teacher

Honolulu

Hawaii

From: [Dana Ciacci](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support HB1346, HD2
Date: Monday, March 18, 2019 12:09:52 PM



From: danacicci@yahoo.com <Dana Ciacci>

Message:

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Rhoads and members of the Education and Judiciary Committees,

I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1346, which would prohibit the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive of Early Learning's Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances.

This bill is following national guidelines and best practices on suspension and expulsion in early years. Suspension and expulsion in these early years has long-term negative educational and life outcomes. Hawaii ranks 17th in the nation. Girls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander experience expulsion at a higher rate. At HCAN, as an organization that advocates for all of Hawaii's children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn, we strongly believe that no child should be expelled or suspended at this early age.

Please pass this bill today!

Dana Ciacci

Kaneohe

Hawaii

From: [Jasmine Ka'ahanui](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support HB1346, HD2
Date: Monday, March 18, 2019 5:30:57 PM



From: jmweaver98@gmail.com <Jasmine Ka'ahanui>

Message:

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Rhoads and members of the Education and Judiciary Committees,

I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1346, which would prohibit the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive of Early Learning's Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances.

This bill is following national guidelines and best practices on suspension and expulsion in early years. Suspension and expulsion in these early years has long-term negative educational and life outcomes. Hawaii ranks 17th in the nation. Girls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander experience expulsion at a higher rate. At HCAN, as an organization that advocates for all of Hawaii's children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn, we strongly believe that no child should be expelled or suspended at this early age.

Please pass this bill today!

Jasmine Ka'ahanui

Waianae

Hawaii

LATE

From: [Melanie Padgett](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Support HB1346, HD2
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 7:32:55 AM

From: melanieandjamie@live.com <Melanie Padgett>

Message:

Instead of expulsion, these kids need developmentally appropriate interventions from qualified professionals to help them and their families so they can succeed in school.

Aloha Chairs Kidani and Rhoads and members of the Education and Judiciary Committees,

I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 1346, which would prohibit the suspension or expulsion of children participating in the Executive of Early Learning's Public Public Prekindergarten Program, except under limited circumstances.

This bill is following national guidelines and best practices on suspension and expulsion in early years. Suspension and expulsion in these early years has long-term negative educational and life outcomes. Hawaii ranks 17th in the nation. Girls who are Black, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander experience expulsion at a higher rate. At HCAN, as an organization that advocates for all of Hawaii's children to be healthy, safe and ready to learn, we strongly believe that no child should be expelled or suspended at this early age.

Please pass this bill today!

Melanie Padgett

project specialist

Pukalani

Hawaii