



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

January 30, 2019

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice-Chair, Lower Education
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice-Chair, Higher Education
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 244 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: January 31, 2019
Time: 2:15 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Early Learning for equipment and furniture.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support with amendments.

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in strong support of House Bill 244, with requested amendments.

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 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.

We appreciate this vehicle for our budget requests this fiscal biennium. We respectfully request that two positions also be included in the bill. These positions may be funded internally if they are approved by the Legislature:

1) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Program Specialist V position for fiscal year 2019-2020 and fiscal year 2020-2021.

In addition to administering the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program, EOEL is responsible for coordination of the comprehensive early childhood system to help ensure a solid foundation for Hawaii's young children, prenatal to age five, by working with partners, families, and communities, connecting policies, programs, and funding in relation to health, safety, early childhood education, and school readiness and success. Included in EOEL's responsibilities is the coordination of efforts to develop a highly-qualified, stable and diverse workforce, which is one of the key components needed to ensure the positive outcomes that are associated with early learning. At best, Hawaii's early childhood workforce can be described as fragmented where providers work in disparate systems, and the expectations and requirements for their preparation and credentials have not kept pace with what the science of child development and early learning indicates children need. Better support for early care and education professionals requires mobilizing leadership at the local and state levels; building a culture in higher education, and ongoing professional learning that reflects the importance of establishing a cohesive workforce for our young children; ensuring practice environments that enable and reinforce the quality of their work; making substantial improvements in working conditions, well-being, compensation, and perceived status; and creating consistency across local, state, and national systems, policies, and infrastructure. EOEL is requesting this position to coordinate efforts that support the development of Hawaii's early childhood workforce.

2) One full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Communications Specialist position for fiscal year 2019-2020 and fiscal year 2020-2021.

The EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program prioritizes children who are at risk, pursuant to statute – research shows that early learning benefits all children, but more so those who are at risk, helping to minimize the achievement gap. To help ensure the Program reaches especially these families, they must be made aware of the importance of early learning and the availability of the program for their children through a broad range of communication methods. Currently, the primary method EOEL employs to communicate with families is its website, which must be improved significantly to be made more family-friendly. A communications specialist dedicated to improving website content as part of his or her overall responsibility to share information about early learning will greatly enhance EOEL's ability to communicate more widely with families as well as the general public. The position will also help address EOEL's statutory responsibilities to build the State's early learning system for children from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, which involves coordinating across the public and private sectors to maximize the engagement of families, caregivers, and teachers in the early learning system; releasing data relating to early learning in the state; generally promoting awareness of early learning opportunities to families and the general public; and consulting with community groups ... all of which involve communications efforts. In addition, the communications specialist will address the communications needs of the Early Learning Board (ELB), EOEL's governing board. EOEL and ELB are facilitating the development of Hawaii's Early Childhood State Plan. ELB will be monitoring progress made by public and private partners toward achieving shared goals delineated in the

Plan, and the Plan will need to be widely communicated to maximize engagement in work around early childhood.

For each of these two positions and to otherwise support EOEL's work, we are requesting computer equipment and software, phones and phone lines, and furniture, as specified in the bill as written.

We respectfully request that the committee consider moving this bill forward with the aforementioned amendments.

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

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Hawaii Chapter

AAP - Hawaii Chapter

P.O. Box 25817
Honolulu, HI 96825
aaphawaii.org

Hawaii Chapter Board

President

Mae S. I. Kyono, MD, FAAP
1319 Punahou Street, 7th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808- 780-5286
mkyono@hawaii.edu

Vice-President

Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP
2828 Paa Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808- 432-5700
michael.s.ching@kp.org

Secretary

Josephine Quensell, MD, FAAP
1319 Punahou Street, Suite 1050
Honolulu, HI 96826
Phone: 808- 942-8144
quensell@hawaii.edu

Treasurer

Vince Yamashiroya, MD, FAAP
1010 S. King Street, Suite 105
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 808- 596-2030
vinceyamashiroya@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

R. Michael Hamilton, MD, MS,
FAAP
1010 Pensacola Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 808- 375-3961
michael.r.hamilton@kp.org

Chapter Executive Director

Sharon Hicks
P.O. Box 25817
Honolulu, HI 96825
Phone: 808- 282-4944
haapsharon@gmail.com

January 30, 2019

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 921: RELATING TO EDUCATION, Jan. 31, 2:15pm, Conference room 309

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the committee,

We are AAP-Hawaii Chapter members who are here for representing 325 pediatricians in the state. We would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 921.

We believe HB 921 is critically significant and strongly support the bill as written. This bill continues actions by the Legislature since its creation of EOEL in 2012 which clarify that it is EOEL that has purview over pre-K as part of the early learning system. EOEL has the expertise in early childhood learning, it was chosen and tasked to be as such and carrying out the work and making early learning system moving forward.

Our discipline is medicine. We have specialists in this community and all over the nation. We work together—if one clinic, hospital, or community does not have particular specialty needed for our patients, we make referrals to those who have needed skills and knowledge. We share special skills and knowledge to treat our patients and support our families. EOEL is the specialist for early childhood learning and they have the expertise to purview preschool and pre-K programs developing in this state.

HB 921 helps to clarify the intent of legislation and expertise to develop a state-wide early learning system with specific responsibility for preschool and pre-K years.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to support HB 921.

Sincerely,

Mari Uehara, M.D.

Louise Iwaishi, M.D.

LATE

HB-244

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 11:55:36 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Fujimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-244

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:16:54 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark I. Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** HB 244 -- Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: Jan. 29, 2019
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Room 309

Description: Appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Early Learning for equipment and furniture.

Early Learning Board Position: Support with Comments

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 244 and offer comments about the bill.

The ELB urges the Committee to endorse the appropriation identified in the bill to support the Executive Office on Early Learning's computer, software, phone lines and furniture needs to facilitate the work of the additional Office staff identified below.

The ELB also respectfully requests that two additional positions be included in the bill: one program specialist V position; and, one communications specialist position for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Both may be funded internally if approved by the Legislature.

The program specialist would coordinate efforts that support the development of Hawaii's early childhood workforce addressing the need to have a highly-qualified, stable and diverse workforce supporting children from 0 – 5 and their families throughout the State's early childhood system. A communications specialist would be dedicated to improving website content as part of his or her overall responsibility to share information about early learning which will greatly enhance EOEL's ability to communicate more widely with families as well as the general public. The position will also help coordinate efforts across the public and private sectors to maximize the engagement of families, caregivers, and teachers in the early learning system; release data relating to early learning in the state; generally promote awareness of early learning opportunities to families and the general public; and consult with community groups. In addition, the communications specialist will address the communications needs of the Early Learning Board (ELB), EOEL's governing board. EOEL and ELB are facilitating the development of Hawaii's Early Childhood State Plan requiring broad communication across the State to engage in the work of fulfilling the Plan's goals.

The ELB requests the Committee move this bill forward with the amendments outlined.

Thank you again for your consideration.

LATE

HB-244

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:48:35 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2019 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Soga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Late
Testimony

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of **Ford Fuchigami**
Administrative Director, Office of the Governor

Before the
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education
January 31, 2019
2:15 p.m., Conference Room 309

In consideration of
House Bill No. 244
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in Strong Support for **House Bill 244** that appropriates funds to the Executive Office of Early Learning for equipment and furniture.

Early education specialists tell us how important it is to prepare young children for a lifetime of learning. Research also tells us that early childhood education, such as preschool programs, are critical for brain development. What children experience in their early years will set the stage for how well they learn for the rest of their lives and is critical to their well-being in adulthood. The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is responsible for developing the State's early childhood system. EOEL has recently released the Early Childhood State Plan that sets the foundation for a statewide early childhood system including children's overall health and well-being, safety, family partnerships, early care and learning. The funds requested in this bill will help enhance EOEL's operational capabilities to implement this plan. Therefore, the Administration respectfully requests the committee's support of this bill.

We appreciate your attention and will be available to answer your questions, should you have any at this time.



January 30, 2019

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark Hashem, Vice Chair
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education

**Late
Testimony**

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

Re: **H.B. 244– Relating to Early Learning**
Capitol, Room 309, January 31, 2:15 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), I am writing in SUPPORT of H.B. 244, which would appropriate funds to the Executive Office of Early Learning for equipment and furniture.

The EOEL's mission is to develop and administer a high-quality early learning system for Hawaii's children from birth to kindergarten. In order to function in a productive way, having the necessary equipment and furniture is important.

For these reasons, HCAN asks that you pass H.B. 244.

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