

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

January 31, 2020

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2623 , RELATING TO
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

SUBMITTED BY LYNN HAMMONDS FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports HB 2623 to establish the early childhood education scholarship program within the University of Hawaii to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a preschool classroom.

Educators understand that a child's early years set the stage for success in school and foster a desire for life-long learning. If Hawaii intends to increase the number of public preschool classrooms, the same number of trained teachers will be needed.

Additionally, if scholarship recipients will be placed in a public school preschool classroom, their program should be one leading to Hawaii teacher licensure. The HTSB respectfully submits the following amendment to HB 2623 for the Committee's consideration:

§302A- (b):

(b) The early childhood education scholarship program shall cover the cost of tuition and fees for a complete course of study that qualifies an individual to teach at a prekindergarten program, provided that an individual teaching in a public school classroom requiring a teaching license shall complete a state approved teacher education program leading to licensure in early childhood education;

The HTSB thanks the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education for introducing and hearing this bill to support early childhood educators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

January 29, 2020

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2623 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS
Hearing Date: January 31, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes the early childhood education scholarship program within the University of Hawaii to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a preschool classroom of the executive office on early learning public prekindergarten program. Appropriates funds.

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 support of H.B. 2623.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of the critical need for qualified early childhood educators in Hawaii.

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.

An early learning program that is not high-quality is linked to inappropriate referrals to special education, which will end up costing the State more.

An early learning program that is not high-quality is linked to suspensions and expulsions of children, which are linked to adverse educational and life outcomes. However, the rate at which children are expelled from state-funded preschool across the nation is alarming – a rate more than three times that of their peers in kindergarten through grade 12. (We note that there have been no suspensions or expulsions in the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program to date.)

When young children are placed in programs that are not high-quality, we risk setting them on a negative trajectory – opposite of the positive outcomes that research has shown are associated only with high-quality early learning programs.

This is why one of our nation's foremost experts on early learning says, "**Expansion of public pre-k is only a worthwhile public investment if children receive a high-quality education**" (W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D., Senior Co-Director, National Institute for Early Education Research).

In our work to increase access to high-quality early learning, we have made workforce development one of our highest priorities.

One of the most fundamental components of high-quality early learning is a qualified educator. The Institute of Medicine and National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education recognize that "(t)eachers with at least a bachelor's degree are more likely to aptly approach instruction – they are more sensitive, less punitive, and more engaged." This is key because "(t) here is general agreement among experts in the field of child development that the quality of classroom interactions between teacher and child contributes substantially to children's learning and development." (Bowman, Donovan, & Burns, 2001).

It is precisely during the earliest years before brain development is largely complete (before kindergarten), and particularly for those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need the best teachers. We do not want to promote inequity.

Unfortunately, we are grappling with a severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators (i.e., those with coursework and background in early childhood, and supported with ongoing professional development, who research shows are most effective). Even as the EOEL Public Pre-K Program stands now with just over 40 classrooms across the state, we have difficulty recruiting and turnover is high. This can be attributed in part to the fact that over half of the teachers in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program have not completed coursework in early childhood education and assumptions about pre-K teaching that are inconsistent with the knowledge and competencies required of teachers in settings for preschool-aged children.

Unqualified teachers don't have the requisite understanding to support preschoolers and families living in difficult circumstances. When vulnerable children encounter teachers who are unprepared to support their developmental needs, what may result are increased instances of stress-induced behavior problems, inappropriate referrals to special education, and suspensions or expulsions.

We greatly appreciate this vehicle to incentivize the development of a pool of highly qualified early childhood professionals for the state, noting that **we prefer the vehicle found in H.B. No 2094.**

We respectfully request your consideration of the following benefits of H.B. No. 2094:

- Would also cover 100% of the tuition and fees for each individual.
- Targets individuals already working in the early care and education field in Hawaii, so they are more likely to stay with us.
- Would provide much-needed support for educators who are an undervalued and under-supported workforce, beyond the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program.
- DHS is interested in utilizing the proposed program to see if there is greater utilization for recruitment and retention efforts of the early childhood workforce at DHS-licensed child

care centers and promoting quality care. (DHS currently has a scholarship program that provides reimbursement after the early childhood practitioner completes the early childhood/child development college coursework.)

- Could accept private dollars.
- Is based on the strong foundation laid by the stipend program administered by UH and funded through the federal Preschool Development Legacy Grant that ended in 2019.
- Includes resources for student support and counseling, proven necessary through UH Manoa College of Education's experience and which further supports the broader workforce.
- Is a result of discussions from stakeholders across Hawaii's early childhood field.
- Has the approval of our governing board, the Early Learning Board, which is composed of members across both the public and private sectors who have expertise and experience in various aspects of the early childhood field.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Friday, January 31, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

by

Donald O. Straney, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2623 – RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chairs Hashem and Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding HB 2623 – Relating to Early Childhood Education Scholarships.

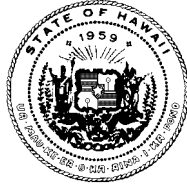
The University of Hawai'i (University) supports the intent of this bill. Providing scholarship funds for students pursuing degrees in early childhood education would serve a State need for more teachers prepared to teach students at the beginning of their educational journey. This bill could help advance the progress on developing more credentialed and qualified teachers as well as potentially increasing the proliferation of early childhood education schools. The University offers early childhood education programs at several of its campuses.

The University would welcome the opportunity to assist students pursuing early childhood education degrees. There would be some mechanical problems issues with administering such a program, though. For example, providing aid as a scholarship that ends up having to be repaid when students do not complete the program or do not spend three years teaching in a classroom of the Executive Office on Early Learning public prekindergarten program will create administrative and logistical issues. These conditions effectively turn the scholarship into a loan program. While the University is willing to find ways to undertake and overcome such challenges for the benefit of having this program, these are processes that must be adequately resourced. Managing such a program would place an administrative burden on the University to collect monies to reimburse the scholarship for students who do not finish their program or teach in public preschool programs.

Identifying the appropriate agency to administer this loan collection program and providing for adequately funding those efforts may be necessary in the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 30, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2623 - RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Hearing: Friday, January 31, 2020, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill to create the early childhood education scholarship program to support the early childhood workforce and provides comments.

PURPOSE: This bill proposes to establish the early childhood education scholarship program within the University of Hawaii to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a preschool classroom of the Executive Office on Early Learning's public prekindergarten program and appropriates funds.

DHS notes that HB 2094 proposes the Hawai'i early childhood stipend program which reaches a broader early childhood workforce than this measure; HB 2094 will be available to other early childhood staff besides teachers in the public prekindergarten programs administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning. HB 2094 includes individuals working in DHS licensed group child care centers (i.e. preschools and infant and toddler child care centers), family child care homes, family child-interaction learning programs, and home-based instruction programs designed to promote early learning.

The early childhood education scholarship program proposed by this bill does not allow for other members of the early childhood workforce to participate which may limit expanding capacity in the early childhood system.

DHS also notes that teachers working at community-based child care centers do not earn the same level of wages as the teachers in the Department of Education and may often have difficulty paying for and completing post-secondary coursework and earning degrees without tuition assistance, such as tuition waivers, stipends, or scholarships. Therefore, the Legislature may want to consider including other sectors of the early childhood workforce in this measure so that the entire early childhood workforce is able to participate in an early childhood education scholarship program proposed by this bill. For the State to achieve a high quality early child care and early childhood learning system, it must invest in developing all aspects of its early childhood workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Rep. Sean Quinlan, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee On Lower, Higher Education HB 2

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** HB No. 2623, Relating To Early Childhood Education Scholarships
Hearing Date: Friday, January 31, 2020
Time: 2:00 P. M.
Location: Conference Room 309

Description: Establishes the early childhood education scholarship program within the University of Hawaii to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a preschool classroom of the executive office on early learning public prekindergarten program. Appropriates funds.

Early Learning Board Position: Support

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

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. We are composed of members from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

ELB's mission is to support children's academic and lifelong well-being by directing and supporting the EOEL for an effective, coordinated, high-quality early learning system from prenatal to kindergarten entry. We support efforts that promote the development of this system for our keiki and families.

The ELB has made workforce development one of its highest priorities to increase access to high-quality early learning. One of the most fundamental components of high-quality early learning is a qualified educator. The Institute of Medicine and National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education recognize that "(t)eachers with at least a bachelor's degree are more likely to aptly approach instruction – they are more sensitive, less punitive, and more engaged." This is key because "(t) here is general agreement among experts in the field of child development that the quality of classroom interactions between teacher and child contributes substantially to children's learning and development." (Bowman, Donovan, & Burns, 2001).

Unfortunately, we are grappling with a severely limited workforce of qualified early childhood educators (i.e., those with coursework and background in early childhood, and supported with

ongoing professional development). Even within the EOEL Public Pre-K Program, now with just over 40 classrooms across the state, recruitment and retention are genuine challenges.

We greatly appreciate this vehicle to incentivize the development of a pool of highly qualified early childhood professionals for the state, noting that the Early Learning Board has already approved the advantages found in H.B. No 2094.

The ELB respectfully requests your consideration of the following benefits of H.B. No. 2094:

- Would also cover 100% of the tuition and fees for each individual.
- Targets individuals already working in the early care and education field in Hawaii, so they are more likely to stay with us.
- Would provide much-needed support for educators who are an undervalued and under-supported workforce, beyond the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program.
- DHS is interested in utilizing the proposed program to see if there is greater utilization for recruitment and retention efforts of the early childhood workforce at DHS-licensed child care centers and promoting quality care. (DHS currently has a scholarship program that provides reimbursement after the early childhood practitioner completes the early childhood/child development college coursework.)
- Could accept private dollars.
- Is based on the strong foundation laid by the stipend program administered by UH and funded through the federal Preschool Development Legacy Grant that ended in 2019.
- Includes resources for student support and counseling, proven necessary through UH Manoa College of Education's experience and which further supports the broader workforce.
- Is a result of discussions from stakeholders across Hawaii's early childhood field.
- Has the approval of our governing board, the Early Learning Board, which is composed of members across both the public and private sectors who have expertise and experience in various aspects of the early childhood field.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill and for considering H.B. No. 2094.



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Woodson, Chair
Representative Hashem, Vice Chair
Representative Quinlan, Vice Chair
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Re: HB2623- Relating to early education scholarships
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309
2:00PM, 1/31/2020

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, we are writing to support in support HB 2623-relating to early education scholarships.

A program, like the one proposed in HB 2623, is needed because the cost of the degree is far greater than the income the teacher would make. According to Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, a preschool teacher's median wage was \$17.94/hour. That is also the identified lowest wage a single person could make to meet their basic needs, as identified by Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's Self-Sufficiency Standard: Estimates for Hawaii 2018¹. That is not enough to encourage people to pursue careers in early education and it will not encourage the needed growth of the profession. HB 2623 is a good enticement to bring people into early education.

Additionally, there is a similar bill, HB 2094, that aims to create the same stipend program. HB 2094 has broader language around early education settings and is more inclusive in who may be a recipient of the stipend. Notably, it says it can be used for "early care and education services directly to children from birth through five years of age" and includes language around possible deferment because of financial hardship or trouble acquiring employment. Both bills have merit and seek to remedy a longstanding issue and we are appreciative of the legislature's interest in this issue and would ask that language from HB 2094 be considered for HB 2623.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director, Public Policy and Research

¹ http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/self-sufficiency/self-sufficiency_2018.pdf

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

LATE

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

FOR: HB 2623 Relating to Early Childhood Education Scholarships
DATE: January 31, 2020
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower and Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Quinlan, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **SUPPORT of HB 2623** which establishes the early childhood education scholarship program to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a classroom of the Executive Office on Early Learning Public Prekindergarten program.

According to researcher Shayna Cook, teaching young children takes specialized knowledge and skills: “[r]esearch shows that effectively fostering children’s development in key domains takes skillful planning, execution, and reflection”. Now, more than ever, there is an understanding within the larger community of the importance of early childhood education. The challenge, then, is to sustain and shape this newfound interest into action that will ensure that every child has access to high-quality early childhood care and educational experiences.

As steps are taken to establish the early childhood teaching profession, there is also a need to support the professional development of existing teachers, including those in charter schools, and to ensure that their practices are up-to-date in this highly progressive field. The Commission believes that this is a step to recognize the importance of and Hawaii’s commitment to the development of strong statewide early childhood educator workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: January 31, 2020

Where: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk
Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 2623, Relating to Early Childhood Education Scholarships**

E ka Luna Ho'omalu Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Hashem, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Quinlan, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao Ha'aha'a, Ki'eki'e, a me ke Kulanui o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

As an educational institution, Kamehameha Schools recognizes and stands in support of the collaborative efforts for early childhood education that are being pushed forward by our Governor, Hawai'i's Senate President, the House Speaker and business leaders throughout Hawai'i. Strategies to recruit, retain and support our teachers are critical for creating the infrastructure necessary to build out public preschools for all keiki.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of HB 2623, which establishes the early childhood education scholarship program within the University of Hawai'i to assist students with school tuition in return for a service commitment to teach in a preschool classroom of the executive office on early learning public prekindergarten program. This measure also appropriates funds.

With the growing gap in teacher shortages across our state, we commend the creativity and determination of the legislature in assisting to recruit and support the development of future educators in early childhood education. Over the past twenty years, preschool teachers have recorded the greatest decline in the field of early childhood care and education (Preschool Administrators, Preschool Teachers, Childcare Workers). According to a recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report, the number of preschool teachers tumbled from 66% in 1999 to 43% in 2018. This measure is a critical tool in recruiting future early childhood professionals through post-secondary scholarship and by also enlisting them to serve our youngest and most vulnerable keiki.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We

believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.**

HB-2623

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 6:12:19 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2020 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Sharman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Theresa Sharman, I am a concerned citizen testifying in strong support of HB2623. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this matter.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Theresa Sharman

alwaysaloha2012@gmail.com

HB-2623

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 8:13:38 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2020 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liane Sakai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair of the House Lower and Higher Education Committee

HB 2623 Relating to Tax Credit for On-Site Early Childhood Facilities

January 31, 2020

2:00pm, Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Liane Sakai and I am a concerned citizen testifying in strong support of HB 2623. This bill creates a scholarship program for University of Hawaii students studying early childhood education. According to several sources, the shortage of licensed early learning teachers is the biggest roadblock in expanding the availability of early learning classrooms. As a Kindergarten teacher I have witnessed firsthand the lack of effective early childhood education programs in our State and how that directly affects students academically and socially within their first years of attending elementary school. I believe this bill HB 2623 will help to improve the early childhood programs and therefore help our students be more successful learners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this matter.

Mahalo,

Liane Sakai

Kindergarten Teacher, Mayor John H. Wilson Elementary School

lianesakai@gmail.com

work phone: 733-4740

HB-2623

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 8:24:43 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2020 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Hinderer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2623

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 8:41:52 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maliny Soukhasem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha chair and members of the committee,

My name is Maliny and I am a student at University of Hawaii Manoa and a citizen testifying in strong support of bill hb2623.

This bill will help students like me, who are interested in early childhood development continue their education with financial help and stay teaching with in the state as well as help expand the availability of early childhood care and education. I think early childhood development is an important part of Keiki growth and learning.

I appreciate the opportunity to share in support of the bill.

Thank you,

Maliny S

HB-2623

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:29:05 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2020 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair of the House Lower and Higher Education Committee

HB2623 Relating to Tax Credit for On-Site Early Childhood Facilities

January 31, 2020

2:00pm, Conference Room 309

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Desiree Johnson and I am a concerned citizen in strong support of HB2623. As a former early childhood educator (who currently has the privilege of being a stay-at-home mom), I know first hand the importance of equipping qualified early childhood education teachers to train up and teach our Keiki. The first five years of a child life are crucial for brain development, as well as for them receiving the tools and confidence to enter into the school system at Kindergarten ready to have a successful schooling career. These are the years to set a solid foundation in education for our precious little ones. This bill will allow for more quality early childhood educators to get the training and schooling they need in order to train up Hawaii's next generation and instill in them the importance of education starting at a young age.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this matter.

Mahalo,

Desiree Johnson

(808)373-0044

Desireehideko@gmail.com

LATE

My name is Donna Iwaishi. I am currently a special education teacher at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School. Over the past 20 years at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School, I have had various roles. As a special education teacher, I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of addressing individual needs across grade levels. As a kindergarten general education teacher, I enjoyed having my own class which has helped me develop my own teaching style. I have served in various leadership roles at my school as well. It is through my collective experiences that I have found my passion within teaching—early childhood education. My passion for the youngest students at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School drove me to push for my administration to hold early learning paramount to all future learning. For this reason, I hounded my principal to apply for Waimanalo to be chosen as a public prekindergarten site, which we were awarded.

Even with 20 years of teaching experience, I know that there is much more I can learn in order to be a highly-effective prekindergarten teacher. My passion and the life-long learner in me propels me to seek a Master in Early Childhood Education degree so that I may provide my students with the best education possible. I am seeking to learn how to design and teach my little ones with a focus on developmentally appropriate practice. I want to be able to create that solid foundation which prepares my students to college and life readiness. I want to continue to strive to support families both in their child's education and with the stressors of life many experience in our community. I am hoping to make a difference for the children and their families as an advocate of early learning for all.

One of the most challenging obstacles to obtaining a Masters in Early Childhood Education is the ability to finance my education. As a single parent paying for my son's education/student loans, there is very little monies left for me. I I am in support of HB2623 because it seeks to provide tuition and fees for educators like myself who are dedicated to creating a strong foundation in our early learners. While my focus will be prekindergarten, I feel that this bill will impact the learning of students beyond the prekindergarten level. With strong foundational skills, students will be able to meet the rigors of grades K-3 socially, behaviorally, and academically. This will, in turn, promote student success as they prepare for college or career readiness. I urge you to pass HB2623 so that Hawaii can grow our pool of highly qualified early childhood educators!

HB-2623

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 9:53:38 AM

Testimony for LHE on 1/31/2020 2:00:00 PM

LATE

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
charis sole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: