



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

January 28, 2019

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** H.B. No. 317 – Relating to Education
Hearing Date: January 29, 2019
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Establishes a pilot program for a low- or no-cost daycare for children of working parents. Appropriates funds.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Comments

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the intent of House Bill 317.

We appreciate the Legislature's support of EOEL's statutory responsibility to develop 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 truly appreciate the Legislature's recognition that families of young children in Hawaii need more affordable, high-quality childcare options.

EOEL would want to work closely in collaboration with the Department of Human Services toward a State-run daycare pilot program, as regulation of child care falls under the purview of DHS.

Should the Legislature decide to enact the pilot program, we respectfully ask that the committee consider the need for positions as well as funding to support administration of such a program.

We would also like to respectfully note that the Early Learning Board, EOEL's governing board, has not yet met to discuss this legislative proposal.

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

HB-317

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 1:57:50 PM

Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-317

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 1:46:59 AM
Testimony for LHE on 1/29/2019 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong Support. With the cost of childcare higher than housing rental prices in Hawaii our working families deserve a safe and affordable (or at no cost) alternative to childcare.