

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
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FOR: HB 996 HD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY FUNDED CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

DATE: February 27, 2019

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance

ROOM: Conference Room 308

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai‘i State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 996 HD1**.

**HB 996 HD1** will allow the Hawai‘i State Public Charter School Commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2019-2020.

The State Public Charter School Commission will ensure that quality measures will continue to align with those of Hawai‘i’s public pre-K programs using national quality standards.

Upon the inception of this grant beginning in 2015, the State Public Charter School Commission has been working closely with the legislature by providing annual informational briefings and public testimony. The intent of the Preschool Development Grant was to provide federal start-up funds to begin new pre-K programs. Thereafter, states were to sustain the programs following the completion of the grant.

The Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission has been seeking alternate funding through the Keiki Funders group, other philanthropic organizations and other funding sources. All agree though, that base funding should be provided by the State.

Currently, the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission is in fourth and final year of the four-year grant, implementing 18 prekindergarten programs in 11 charter schools statewide.

Providing the funding to sustain this high quality prekindergarten program means that potentially 360 children and families across the State of Hawai'i will benefit from high quality preschool experiences. This nearly doubles the number of children enrolled in public pre-K programs in Hawaii.

Another important aspect of **HB 996 HD1** is its expanded support to working families by expanding the eligibility criteria. This change will increase access to high quality prekindergarten programs for children and families, particularly those who may be living in remote, rural areas of our state.

Testimony from a mother of a student currently attending the Kualapu'u Public Charter School prekindergarten program urges support for this program: "Please keep our pre-K program. It's an excellent program, excellent teacher and an administrator who is behind it 100% and with a community that needs it. We are a small community, and we don't have many options. So, please, please, please continue to fund the pre-K. We are very invested."

Another mom from our prekindergarten program at Na Wai Ola Public charter in Mountain View, Hawai'i shared: "It's amazing! She's gone from shy, timid and very enclosed to just free-spirited. She talks to people and makes friends. For me personally as a mom, to see your child bloom... she used to keep to herself. Now, she's goes out and she wants to learn. She wants to go to school. To see her just share what she learned throughout the school day and bring it home and say, 'I want to show you (be)cause this is what I learned in class.' The whole family is a part of her learning. It's something special."

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission respectfully requests that the committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

February 26, 2019

**TO:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** H.B. No. 996, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY FUNDED CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS.  
**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2019  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Room 308

**Bill Description:** Appropriates moneys for fiscal year 2019-2020 to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded eighteen existing charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were provided for by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support**

Good morning. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in strong support of H.B. 996, H.D. 1.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of the need to increase access to high-quality early learning.

We fully support the Commission's request for funding to sustain its 18 pre-K classrooms across the state. 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. The charter pre-K classrooms are included in our proposal to increase access to prekindergarten for our keiki – they provide an important option that addresses family choice and provides opportunities in areas that do not have pre-K programs. If the Commission is not able to sustain their currently-operating classrooms, it will be to the detriment of the community.

In its implementation of the 18 pre-K classrooms, the Commission aligns curriculum and assessments to the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, and works toward achieving the quality standards of the National Institute for Early Education Research, as EOEL

does for the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program. We believe the Commission is committed to working with EOEL toward ensuring a high-quality pre-K program for our keiki.

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

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

**To:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J. K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

**From:** Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board

**Subject:** **Measure:** HB No. 996, H.D. 1 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY FUNDED CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

**Hearing Date:** February 27, 2019

**Time:** 11:00 am

**Location:** Room 308

**Description:** Appropriates moneys for school year 2019-2020 to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded eighteen existing charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were provided for by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015.

**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 in support HB No. 996, H.D. 1 on behalf of the Early Learning Board.

The ELB supports the bill's appropriation of funds to continue the 18 charter school classrooms developed with funding from the Federal Preschool Development Grant, received by the Charter School Commission in 2015. 2019 marks the completion of the grant and this appropriation would sustain the quality early learning program opportunities for 360 children across our State.

Knowing the impact that quality learning experiences in pre-K have, particularly upon low income and at-risk children and their families, the ELB believes it is incumbent upon our State to continue the excellent work begun with the Federal start-up funds. The Charter School Commission reports gains on many fronts for the pre-K participants: cognitive, social emotional and physical development as well as language, literacy and math. These are the kinds of positive outcomes that pre-K experience offers our keiki and we don't wish to lose them.

Continuation of the Charter School prekindergarten offers choice to our families and increases access to high quality prekindergarten programs for children and families who may be living in remote, rural areas of our State. Additionally, support of this bill continues the emphasis upon culture-based programs in almost half of the 18 classrooms.

The ELB respectfully requests that the Committee move this bill forward. Thank you again for your consideration and the opportunity to offer testimony.



**HB996 HD1**  
**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL**  
**COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY FUNDED**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS**  
House Committee on Finance

February 27, 2019

11:00 a.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB996 HD1, which would provide funding to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the federally funded prekindergarten program in public charter schools for school year 2019-2020. **This measure is necessary to ensure the continuation of a program that benefits young learners, and increases their likelihood of future academic success and positive overall development.**

In any given year, there are about 17,000 four-year-old children in Hawai‘i, approximately half of whom will enter kindergarten without having attended preschool. Not surprisingly, a significant majority of public school kindergarten teachers report that their new students are not ready for school. Encouraging greater preschool attendance may substantially increase our children’s chances of success in kindergarten and beyond: research shows that children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten, reach higher levels of educational attainment, and contribute meaningfully to society, among other positive outcomes, when provided with the opportunity for high-quality early childhood education.

In 2014, OHA wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), in support of the State’s successful application to the USDOE’s Preschool Development Grants Program. The State’s application proposed to improve kindergarten readiness with an ambitious yet achievable plan, to expand access to high-quality preschool classrooms in high-need communities through a charter school prekindergarten program. Eleven public charter schools, seven of which are Hawaiian culture-based or Hawaiian language immersion schools, currently support prekindergarten classrooms, with charter school directors reporting a significant difference in kindergarten readiness as a result. HB996 HD1 will ensure funding for the continuation of the charter school prekindergarten program, and allow preschool-aged children, including Native Hawaiian keiki, in our public charter schools to continue accessing the advantages of early childhood education.

OHA continues to be a strong supporter of Hawai‘i’s public charter schools, many of which provide a culturally-grounded education for Native Hawaiian and other children. 17 of the 37 public charter schools in Hawai‘i are Hawaiian culture-based or Hawaiian

language immersion schools, in which OHA has invested over \$18.6 million between FY 2005-2006 and FY 2016-2017. On October 19, 2017, the OHA Board of Trustees approved an additional \$3 million total to be provided to these charter schools for FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019. OHA made this investment because research shows that Hawaiian students exposed to culturally-driven educational strategies have a stronger sense of socio-emotional well-being, deeper engagement with their schools, and a stronger commitment to civic activities in their community, factors which are directly tied to greater academic achievement.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB996 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President

Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 996, HD1 - MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY FUNDED CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

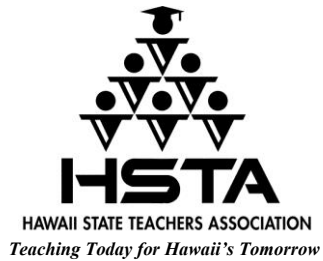
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 996, HD1** which appropriates moneys for school year 2019-2020 to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded eighteen existing charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were provided for by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015.

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.



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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.

Utilizing public school resources for the provision of early learning will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certificated and licensed public-school teachers with additional certifications in early childhood education. Additionally, public early learning programs will not set a precedent for the future adoption of school voucher programs at the elementary and secondary school level. Finally, this proposal does not violate the U.S. Constitution's and Hawaii State Constitution's Establishment Clauses, which bar preferential governmental treatment for religious institutions, ensuring that the state will not become ensnared in costly litigation because of a misappropriation of funds to programs that promote theological viewpoints. Public early learning will, instead, include research-based, developmentally appropriate, secular practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children.

Because early childhood education is beneficial to lifetime learning, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** HB 996, HD1.



**TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance**

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

**DATE/LOCATION: February 27, 2019; 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308**

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 996– RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**We ask you to support HB 996 which makes an appropriation to the state Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded charter school prekindergarten classrooms.** We support this bill which will sustain the 18 prekindergarten programs within our charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2019-2020.

As a provider of Head Start and Early Head Start services on Oahu and Hawaii Island, we believe in high-quality early childhood education opportunities for every child. We also believe in the critical importance of providing access to early childhood education opportunities 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. We ask for your support to provide the funding necessary to maintain access to high-quality preschool classrooms in our public charter schools.

Early childhood education is a critical need in Hawaii and moving forward we will need to focus on expanding access to early childhood education programs as well as maintaining the highest quality standards so that all keiki have access to affordable, high-quality, early care and education opportunities. It is critically important that we all work together to ensure that we can continue to serve increasingly more families particularly in neighborhoods of greatest need. In order to be able to reach and serve all our keiki, it is crucially important that we continue to collaborate, think creatively and support all early learning providers—the Department of Education, Executive Office of Early Learning, Head Start and Early Head Start providers, Charter Schools, Private in-home providers, Family Child Interactive Learning programs, Private preschools and others. **Our keiki are the greatest investment we can make for the future of Hawaii.**

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 community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB 996**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:52:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
LYDIA TRINIDAD	Kualapu'u Public Conversion Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee:

Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 996.

HB 996 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Research shows that children who attend preschool are better prepared for school and in life. Long-term studies suggest that preschool positively impacts important societal outcomes such as high school graduation, completed years of education, earnings, and reduced crime and teen pregnancy.

Sustaining high quality prekindergarten programs means that our school will continue to support 19 children to have FREE access to an early education, especially in a rural area that has high poverty. Many of our children need an early start to learning to give them an early start and edge out of poverty.

Thank you for your support and consideration of HB 996.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 27, 2019

Where: Conference Room 308

### TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona  
Kamehameha Schools

**RE: HB 996, HD1, Making an Appropriation to the State Public Charter School Commission to Maintain and Continue the Current Federally Funded Charter School Prekindergarten Classrooms**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Cullen, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, the Managing Director of Kūamahi Community Education.

HB 996, HD1, relating to charter schools, appropriates moneys for school year 2019-2020 to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded eighteen existing charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were provided for by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015. We are writing in **strong support** of this measure.

These eighteen public charter school prekindergarten classrooms serve a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students and continue to show positive growth in developmental and educational areas. Public prekindergarten provides an important opportunity for all of our keiki to enter kindergarten well prepared for their lifelong educational journey. Without these critical funds, 360 prekindergarten seats for four-year-olds across Hawai‘i will cease to exist.

Research shows us that more than eighty-five percent of brain development occurs from the time of birth to the age of five. Enrollment in school readiness programs, like the operating eighteen public charter school prekindergarten classrooms, prepare all keiki to learn cognitively, linguistically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

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.**



## Hawaii Chapter

February 25, 2019

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 996, making appropriation to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue funding the Charter School Prekindergarten Classrooms.

On behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing in support of HB 996. Pediatricians know how important quality early childhood education is for raising productive members of society. In the last four years, Hawaii and the federal government have worked together to develop a network of high quality public charter school preschool classrooms. These classrooms provide vital community resources for children who may not be able to attend private preschool programs. They serve as models for innovation within our community. However, these high-quality programs are in jeopardy of closing without ongoing funding. We believe that the State of Hawaii has benefited from these classrooms serving our keiki and we ask that these classrooms be funded to continue their mission in service of our state.

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of over 300 pediatricians and pediatric specialists. Our mission is to attain optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for infants, children, adolescents and young adults. We humbly request that your committee vote to advance HB 996.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mae S. I. Kyono".

Mae Kyono, MD FAAP  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter  
President

### AAP - Hawaii Chapter

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**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:59:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:41:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Holly Uttecht	Volcano School of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

As the PreK teacher at Volcano School of Arts and Sciences, I urge you to support HB996. There are many students who enter my PreK class a full year or two behind in language and social emotional development. In order for students to be successful in kindergarten with the rigorous Common Core Standards, PreK programs act as an invaluable stepping stone. Getting children caught up before kindergarten is the first step in closing the achievement gap. Again, I humbly ask for continued funding for the PreK programs that are at risk.

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:42:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janie McQueen	Volcano School of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives of the State Legislature:

The Volcano School of Arts and Sciences preschool program is vital and successful. Not only are there no real choices available in our immediate area, this program is part of a larger educational environment where children thrive academically and socially. Yes, preschool is not 3rd grade. But it's arguably the "new kindergarten." It gets them ready for school. Most children attend preschool today. There wouldn't be so many -- government funded, too -- if this weren't considered an essential part of education now. Preschool is no longer "playschool." Children entering even kindergarten, which is more like 1st grade across the board, are expected to have at least some preparation for being part of a classroom.

The VSAS preschool is some local families' only choice -- many don't have adequate transportation to make a separate trip to an area preschool. I frequently see parents walking and cycling to school with their young children.

The VSAS preschool serves a specific purpose. It's not some add-on excuse for government funding. Please carefully consider what you are proposing to cut -- it's easy to think of it as an "extra expense," but the children it serves, is not "extra," it is important and even essential.

Respectfully yours,

Janie McQueen

11-3806 11th St.

Volcano, Hawaii 96785

808-854-9750

janiemcwriter@gmail.com

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:18:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ceilidh Cook	Volcano School of Arts and Sciences	Support	No

Comments:

I am the mother of 3, my two oldest children (grades 1 & 3) are students at Volcano School of Arts & Sciences. My youngest could begin pre-k in the fall. None of them were able to attend pre-k before, Ellis would be the first. He's excited about the idea, he's ready for school, and I hope he'll be able to go. VSAS being able to fund their pre-k program is the only I can imagine that happening. There are not a lot of options available to us otherwise. Thank you for your consideration and please vote yes to continue to fund pre-k programs.

Ceilidh Cook

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:58:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
robyn duncan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Robyn Duncan and my granddaughter currently attends the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences preschool program. She has learned so much this school year and I can't imagine not having this program available to up and coming preschoolers. My grandson is due to start preschool in the 2019-2020 school year and I would be devastated if he didn't get the same chance as his sister in early education. Not allowing the necessary funding would be a terrible disservice to the community and to the future generations of Hawaii. Please consider the children and families that will be denied access to early education if you do not provide the funding needed to continue this wonderful program. It has been proven that the earlier a child is introduced to academics, the greater his/her chances are in becoming successful, intelligent, self providing adults who contribute to our community in a positive way. It is truly in all of our best interests, currently and future generations, to do the right thing for our children by continuing this early educational program.

Respectfully,

Robyn M Duncan

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:39:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB966. Why? Because I'm a mother of a former Pre-K student at Kualapuu Charter School on Molokai. What did she learn? Social skills for life (being respectful, helping one another, sharing), while still learning reading & writing. Impact? More families on Molokai will have the opportunity for their keikis to be the next generation of achievers, that supports the whole community.

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:55:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mara Saltzman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support charter school preschool funding. Every year public schools, including our public charter schools, take in students that are behind on their basic academic skills. Teachers work very hard to catch up these students, many who fall years behind academically. Preschool gives these public school children a much better opportunity to be prepared academically.

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:01:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill to fund public charter preschools so that our kids have a chance to get an early start in a charter school that better suits their learning styles and interests. We believe that giving our children a head start in a school they'd like to stay with will build their confidence and comfort in their learning environment. Also, most local families can not afford the high tuition rate of other available preschools, thus putting lower income children at an early dis-advantage in the education system.



**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:53:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Kimberly Puanani Johnston, and as a Kindergarten teacher I can attest to the difference that early education makes in the life of a child. Please pass this bill so we can continue to support early learning.

Mahalo,

Kim Johnston

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 6:50:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judy Scoville-Layfield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I've worked in the field of education for over 30 and have seen the difference that early education makes in the learning success of our keiki and they progress to higher grades and eventually graduate. Our future Hawaii generations are dependent on the charter preschool programs to get a solid grounding for their education journey.

I have seen first hand where programs like this have changed dysfunctional families. All of Hawaii NEEDS the charter preschools to be funded.

Mahalo,

Judy Scoville-Layfield

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:23:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Edmunds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I request that funding be approved as the Pre-K program at the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences is a huge asset to the local community. There is a lack of affordable and accessible education available at that age range in the area, and many of the local population are on limited incomes and struggle to afford private options, all of which are located far from the village.

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:32:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Foxen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of funding for Wai'ala'e Charter School's preschool program grant. It is an amazing preschool and has helped so many of our keiki in need receive a quality education in a caring environment.

Starting in 2014, our family went through years of significant illnesses and losses of our parents. We had to adjust our working hours and employment to care for ailing parents. Although our finances were much lower, we were grateful to spend the time we could with them and be there for them in their time of need.

With two children approaching preschool, private pay preschools were definitely a financial burden. I didn't want to compromise their learning or their social development by not sending them to school. This is why the federal grant for Wai'ala'e Charter was such a blessing for our family!

Our son attended Wai'ala'e's preschool 2017-2018. He benefitted from a multicultural environment and loved learning about the plant life cycle, about building structures, and especially the Hawaiian language and culture component. He is now excelling in all aspects of Kindergarten at Wai'ala'e School. He is reading and writing, his creativity is unlimited, he has made good friends, and he still has an incredible love for the Hawaiian language and culture.

Our daughter is currently in Wai'ala'e's preschool this school year (2018-2019). Although she is not diagnosed with a speech or learning disorder, her speech is definitely harder

to comprehend than a lot of other children her age. The caring and loving teachers at our preschool have been working with her diligently with this part of her development. She has made many gains in school this year socially and academically. She is grasping early reading skills well. With her speech improving, her frustration levels have decreased when interacting with others. She will be attending Kindergarten at Wai'alaie in the fall.

Wai'alaie's school already has the infrastructure in place to continue the preschool, through the federal grant that was given to them for the past few years. It would be fiscally irresponsible to let that go to waste, including all the man hours, the building of the curriculum, the age appropriate learning tools, and the amazing teachers that have made the preschool into a great place of learning.

Without the preschool at Wai'alaie, our family would not have been able to provide our children with a quality early education. We are grateful for the grant, the teachers, and the loving environment Wai'alaie provides for the keiki. I humbly ask for your support in keeping the funding for the preschool.

Sincerely,

Lisa Foxen, LSW

Parent (and Social Worker)

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:01:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rob Hamnett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB996 as there are very few options for PreK for our keiki within a 15 miles of Volcano Village aside from the excellent charter school.

Mahalo,

Rob Hamnett

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:53:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
VINCENT KIMURA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 4:06:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Corina B Calsing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As I resident of Volcano, I believe it is imperative that we offer pre-kindergarten at our local charter school.



**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 4:15:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose HB996. Since early childhood learning scaffolds into what is learned at higher grade levels, it makes sense for the DOE to receive the moneys for preschool programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**LATE**

**HB-996-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 8:30:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2019 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eva Thiim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a parent of a child that currently attends Wai'alaie Elementary Pre-School program I can tell you first hand and that providing an early education program that meets the same standards as a private school pre-school but at an affordable cost to all children of Hawaii not just the rich ones is a blessing. To be able to give my son the same opportunity to learn and grow has been such a relief. With the cost of living getting hire and hire and to beable to afford a good education for your child has now become wishful thinking. This pre-school has help my son so much the past two years he has attended. His social skills have improved, talking increased and he loves his teachers. Closing this Preschool program will be detrimental to these children's education. Many will stay home with a relative while there parents work or be sent to a sitter. Why can we not make this fundamental eduation that our children deserve for free? We shouldn't have to ask for this this should be their right. I hope you will agree with me and pass this bill!