



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 01/27/2020
Time: 02:45 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 2052 RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.

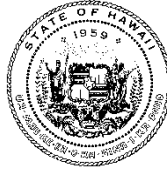
Purpose of Bill: Adds early childhood education students to the Hawaii educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years teaching in early childhood education. Appropriates funds.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2052 and the addition of early childhood education to the Hawaii educator loan forgiveness program. The Department encourages the funding of loan forgiveness for early childhood through secondary education preparation provided that it does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in the Board of Education approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2052.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. 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
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

January 27, 2020

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2052, RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS**

SUBMITTED BY LYNN HAMMONDS FOR THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB 2052 to add early childhood education teachers to the Hawaii educator loan program to allow loans of these individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years teaching in early childhood education.

The HTSB enthusiastically supports this addition to include early childhood education teachers, but does request an amendment that could affect any teacher who is placed by the Department of Education or a Hawaii Public Charter School in a teaching position that is not in their area of academic major field, and suggests the following language:

§302A-701 (a) (1) (B): As a secondary school teacher teaching in the subject area that is relevant to the loan recipient's academic major or licensure field as certified by the department of education who has met standards as set forth by the Hawaii teacher standards board;

It is not uncommon today for individuals to complete preparation programs that are not in their undergraduate major field. For example, a “career changer” or exiting military personnel may have majored in chemistry in their bachelor’s degree program, but ten to twenty years later realize they want to become a mathematics teacher. If they complete a state approved preparation program in secondary mathematics, meet the mathematics content knowledge requirement, become licensed in Mathematics 6-12, and obtain a job teaching secondary mathematics, they would not be eligible for the loan because their major field was chemistry. Adding “or licensure field” would address this discrepancy, which may not have been relevant when the original language of §302A-701 was developed.

The HTSB thanks the Senate Committee on Education for introducing and hearing this bill to support teachers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

January 26, 2020

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

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 2052 – RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

Hearing Date: January 27, 2020

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Location: Room 229

Bill Description: Adds early childhood education students to the Hawaii educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years teaching in early childhood education. 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 strong support of S.B. 2052.

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).

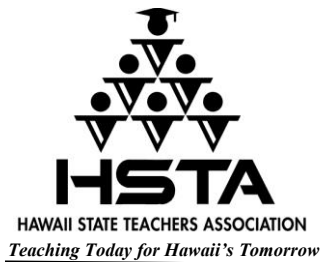
It is precisely during the earliest years before brain development is largely complete (before kindergarten), and particularly for those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds – the priority population for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program – that our children need the best teachers. We do not want to promote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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION

RE: SB 2052 – RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Kidani and Committee members

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 2052**, relating to loan forgiveness for Early Childhood Education Professionals.

With the state's goal of expanding Early Childhood Education, including our public preschools, we will need more Early Childhood Education licensed teachers for this expansion, especially due to our current teacher shortage crisis. Students and teachers would benefit from the assistance that this bill would provide for them to pursue the path of becoming a fully licensed Early Childhood Education teachers. This bill would provide loan forgiveness to obtain the ECE license they need, for students, or existing teachers, to pursue more ECE courses for licensure. We also appreciate that in order to receive this tuition support, these individuals will need to agree to remain ECE teachers in our state in hard to fill areas for a certain amount of years after receiving their Early Childhood Education degree. We hope this assistance will also include and invite current Educational Assistants (EAs) already working at our public schools, including our public charter schools, in hard to fill areas, who are pursuing an education degree as well, and work at schools planning to expand public preschool on their campus. Thank you for consideration of our input.

Therefore the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

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>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 2052 Relating to Loan Forgiveness for Early Childhood Education Professionals

DATE: January 27, 2020

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Education

ROOM: Conference Room 229

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

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony providing **SUPPORT of SB 2052 with amendments**, which considers the addition of early childhood education professionals to the Hawaii educator loan program.

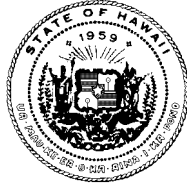
According to researcher Shayna Cook, teaching young children takes specialized knowledge and skills: “[r]esearch shows that effectively fostering children’s development in key domains takes skillful planning, execution, and reflection”. Now, more than ever, there is an understanding within the larger 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. We believe that this is a step to recognize the importance of and Hawaii’s commitment to the development of strong statewide early childhood educator workforce.

The Commission requests that this **measure be amended to include public charter school teachers in the Hawaii educator loan program** in a manner that meets the intent and purpose of the loan program. The Commission appreciates the Legislature’s efforts and willingness to

address and lessen expenses of our early childhood workforce. The Commission is available to provide any needed assistance to the committee and other interested stakeholders as this legislation moves forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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

January 26, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2052 - RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS**

Hearing: Monday, January 27, 2019, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure to expand the Hawaii educator loan program to include teachers at licensed group child care centers throughout the state and provides comments.

PURPOSE: This bill proposes to amend section 304A-701, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by adding early childhood education students to the Hawaii educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years of teaching in early childhood education.

If the intent of the bill is to provide forgiving of loans of those individuals who teach in group child care centers that are licensed by DHS in accordance with Part VIII of Chapter 346, HRS, then:

A. Lines 13 and 14 on page 2 should be revised to be:

(3) At a group child care center licensed by the department of human services, in accordance with section 346-161.

B. Lines 8 and 9 on page 3 should be revised to be:

... in a group child care center that is licensed by the department of human services pursuant to subsection (a) (3), ...;

C. Lines 20 and 21 on page 3 should be revised to be:

... or group child care center licensed by the department of human services for the ...

D. Lines 2 and 3 on page 4 should be revised to be:

... or group child care center that is licensed by the department of human services, excluding ...

The department also notes that teachers in licensed group child care centers do not necessarily complete a state-approved teacher education program, as described in subsection (e) on page 3 (lines 4 and 5), since teachers are not required to be licensed by the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board to work at a group child care center. The education and experience requirements to work at group child care centers are established within the department's administrative rules under chapters 17-892.1 and 17-895. DHS also notes that teachers working at group child care centers do not earn the same level of wages that the teachers in the Department of Education make and may often have difficulty paying for and completing post-secondary coursework and degrees without more immediate tuition assistance, such as tuition waivers or scholarships. Therefore, the Legislature may want to consider broadening the categories of the loan forgiveness program or other strategies that provide financial assistance for continuing education for child care providers or teachers working at group child care centers licensed by DHS.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
Monday, January 27, 2020 at 2:45 p.m.

By
Dr. Nathan Murata
Dean, College of Education
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

SB 2052 – RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2052 which adds early childhood education students to the Hawai'i educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years teaching in early childhood education.

The College of Education supports the intent of this bill, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget, for continued financial support for early childhood educators. In partnership with provided financial institutions whose operations are principally conducted in Hawai'i to provide financial support to students and teachers who complete a state-approved teacher education program and who agree to teach as a full-time teacher for a period of time to be determined by the university prior to the award of a loan.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 2052.



LATE

KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Date: January 27, 2020

Where: Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: SB 2052, Relating to Loan Forgiveness for Early Childhood Education Professionals

E ka Luna Ho'omalu Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Kim, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha kākou! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk, the Senior Policy Analyst for Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of SB 2052, which adds early childhood education students to the Hawai'i educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years teaching in early childhood education. 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. This measure is a critical tool in incentivizing future early childhood professionals that commit 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.**



LATE

SENATE BILL 2052, RELATING TO LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

JANUARY 27, 2020 · SENATE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. MICHELLE N. KIDANI

POSITION: Support, with amendments.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus supports and suggests amendments for SB 2052, relating to loan forgiveness for early childhood education professionals, which adds early childhood education students to the Hawai'i educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate number of years teaching in early childhood education.

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. Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not only helps working parents fulfill their child rearing responsibilities, but is essential for building a 21st 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. It is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success.

That said, we note that this measure appears to only apply loan forgiveness to early education programs operated by the Department of Human Services. Currently, early childhood education programs operated by the Executive Office on Early Learning are experiencing a chronic teacher shortage, with a majority of EOEL’s classrooms lacking a teacher certified in early childhood education. We understand that the joint House-Senate Majority Caucus package includes a proposal to eliminate EOEL and establish a public-private partnership to facilitate preschool programming in the islands, but even under that measure, EOEL’s current classrooms—which have been placed in high-needs communities—would be transferred to the Hawai’i Department of Education and remain operational. Accordingly, we urge you to **amend this measure to ensure that any incoming teacher working in an early learning classroom funded or governed by the state, including those overseen by EOEL and HIDOE, may apply for the loan forgiveness program.**

To: Committee on Education
Committee Chair Senator Michelle Kidani
Committee Vice Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim

Date: Monday January 27, 2020 at 2:45pm

RE: **Support for SB 2052; Relating to Loan Forgiveness for Early Childhood Education Professionals**

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 support SB 2052, which adds early childhood education students to the Hawai'i educator loan program to allow the education loans of those individuals to be forgiven after an appropriate amount of years teaching in early childhood education.

Research finds that Hawai'i's youngest children benefit tremendously from early learning programs. Keiki that attend early learning programs enjoy both short-term and long-term benefits, including improved academic and school readiness, higher graduation rates, and lower incarceration rates. Access to early learning programs has also decreased the achievement gap between low-income and otherwise disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers—potentially positively altering their lifetime trajectories.

Child care workers in Hawai'i are the lowest paid in the nation when accounting cost of living. The 2018 Early Childhood Workforce Index says the actual median wage for child care workers in Hawai'i is only \$10.64 an hour. Many child care workers have various degrees and/or certifications, including completion of higher-institute early childhood education coursework. Adding early childhood educators to the loan forgiveness programs can help offset the financial burden many of our educators face and allow them to continue the quality of care our keiki need in order to develop and thrive.

It is critical to support early childhood educators and we respectfully urge the committee to pass SB 2052. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SB-2052

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:40:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 1/27/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robyn Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 2052.

SB 2052 is essential in light of the Governor and Legislature's aspirations to expand PreK programs in the public and private sector and other interest in funding early learning programs.

There is an urgent need to grow a well-prepared workforce that is necessary to sustain programs for young children. At the same time, early childhood practitioners in the workforce are among the lowest paid occupations and the cost of college is prohibitive for this sector of our workforce.

Currently, Early Childhood Education (ECE) students/practitioners are unable to benefit from loan forgiveness programs that are available to other educators and there are few sources of financial support to pursue a college degree, thus exacerbating the challenge of growing a workforce for the discipline. SB 2052 expands public school teacher loan forgiveness programs that all potential educators can access to early educators who become employed in DHS authorized ECE settings and HODOE PreKs. While it will not address the compensation issues that make it difficult to retain practitioners that have completed preparation programs and are employed in the non-profit sector programs, it makes earning a degree attainable. This is an important step forward for the students from underrepresented groups that comprise a broad majority of the practitioners in the field.

This bill will address programs which support initial license students in ECE programs, at the level where the debt burden is greatest (baccalaureate and graduate degrees). However, please consider that funding is needed at all levels of pre-service preparation in order to build the robust workforce needed for the expansion of ECE services that policymakers and the public seek.

Therefore, I encourage legislators to see this bill as part of a multi-pronged effort along with HB2094. Please provide financial support for students at all levels (entry level certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and initial license masters) in early childhood education preparation programs, including the programs for our PK-3 Hawaiian Language medium kumu at UH Hilo. These bills coincide with efforts underway

to improve the educational pathways and comprehensive supports needed to grow the ECE workforce.

We will need to financially support this vulnerable population at all steps of their higher education journey if we hope to grow the workforce we urgently need.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Robyn S. B. Chun, MEd

LATE

SB-2052

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 12:50:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 1/27/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Hochberg	Testifying for Hawaii Life Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Chang and Members of the Committee on Commerce Consumer Protection and Health:

Hawaii Life Alliance is in strong support of SB2052 that would appropriate funds to engage in a public awareness campaign on Hawaii's safe haven law.

As the leading right to life organization in Hawaii, we support efforts that protect innocent human life and offer parents responsible and supportive alternatives to infant and child abandonment.

(The National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) has supported all state efforts that are in alignment with the NSHA mission to prevent infanticide and newborn abandonment through education and advocacy of the Safe Haven Law.)

Hawaii Life Alliance is encouraged by this measure that would help prevent newborn abandonment through education and advocacy - which will create a greater awareness and understanding of safe and compassionate options and hope for desperate parents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2052.

Janet Hochberg, Executive Director

Hawaii Life Alliance