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LATE

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
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Date: 02/11/2019
Time: 03:30 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education
Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education
Title of Bill: SB 0091 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects of the department of education.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 0091. The stipulated lump sums categories and budget values are aligned with the Department's mission to maintain and improve our campuses. We have defined lump sum categories of capacity, repair and maintenance, instruction, support, compliance, equipment, health and safety, innovation, information technology, and project completion to better address the needs of our facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. 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
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 9, 2019

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. 91 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hearing Date: February 11, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Room 229

Bill Description: Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects of the department of education.

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 funding for EDN700, EOEL's program ID, as included in S.B. 91.

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. EOEL is attached to the Department of Education for administrative purposes only.

To address the need to increase access to pre-K for our keiki, the 2014 Legislature allocated funds to EOEL to implement a high-quality pre-K program starting with 20 classrooms in the 2014-2015 school year. In 2017, EOEL requested funds for 10 additional classrooms and received funding for five classrooms. We are grateful to the Legislature for its recognition of the need to increase access to high-quality early learning. As a result, the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program can serve up to 520 four-year-old children in Hawaii; EOEL recognizes that other providers, including federal Head Start and community-based providers, also play a critical role in increasing access for our children. EOEL has plans to expand the Program to ensure high-quality pre-K for our keiki as it continues to work intently with its partners to develop the severely limited pool of qualified early childhood educators needed to teach in new classrooms.

In fall 2018, DOE identified 22 public schools at which classrooms are available for pre-K. EOEL is currently working with DOE to review the applications received from 30 schools to participate in

the EOEL Public Pre-K Program. For the past few years, EOEL has reviewed school applications using the following criteria:

- (1) **Community need.** The percentage of the population of school/community that meets the priority categories identified in statute – targeting those who can benefit the most from early learning opportunities – is considered. In addition to the following underserved and at-risk populations, EOEL must prioritize families with incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty guidelines for Hawaii:
 - a. Special education;
 - b. English language learners;
 - c. Foster children; and
 - d. Homeless.
- (2) **Community need.** Existing programs on the school campus and in the surrounding area, as well as the community’s need for additional seats, is considered. (An existing program may have already developed good relationships with families, the community, and school, and should not be replaced by a new pre-K classroom.)
 - a. Schools are required to include this information on applications. EOEL also looks into information on EOEL’s end (including community data, the results of the 2017 Early Learning Needs Assessment, and location of federal Head Start and charter school pre-K classrooms).
- (3) **Availability of space.** The school has a classroom and identified outdoor play space that addresses (or which may reasonably be retrofitted to address) the health and safety requirements of a program for 4-year-old children (based on Hawaii Department of Human Services administrative rules).
 - a. We recognize the high costs of facilities, and are trying to be fiscally responsible. Since the start of our program 4 years ago, we have not had to request any CIP funds.
- (4) **Principal interest.** The principal is committed to implementing a high-quality early learning program through active participation in professional development sessions with school teams and professional learning communities, with the end goal of having a high-quality early learning program in which there is continuity and alignment between and across programs and grade levels to ensure positive outcomes are sustained. The principal, as the school’s leader and who supports and evaluates his/her pre-K teachers, is key to implementation of a successful pre-K program.
 - a. As other states across the nation are building up their public pre-K programs, they too are finding that their principals need ongoing support and training.

DOE has indicated that the cost to retrofit the classrooms at the 22 public schools it has identified as having space for pre-K, is \$650,000 per classroom, totaling \$14.3 million.

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

February 10, 2019

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Morcado Kim, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject **Measure:** S.B. No. 91 – Relating to the Department of Education
Hearing Date: February 11, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Room 229

Bill Description: Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects of the department of education

Early Learning Board Position: Support

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). The ELB is in strong support of capital improvement project funding for EDN700, the Executive Office on Early Learning's (EOEL) program ID, as included in S.B. 91.

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.

To address the need to increase access to pre-K for our keiki, the 2014 Legislature allocated funds to EOEL to implement a high-quality public pre-K program starting with 20 classrooms in the 2014-2015 school year. In 2017, EOEL requested funds for 10 additional classrooms and received funding for five. As a result, the EOEL Public Pre-K Program can serve up to 520 four-year-old children in Hawaii. While the ELB appreciates this Legislative support, it recognizes that much work remains to address the need to broaden access to quality prekindergarten experiences for Hawaii's keiki, given the number of children not yet being served. The ELB supports EOEL plans to expand the Public Prekindergarten Program.

In fall 2018, the Department of Education identified 22 public schools at which classrooms are available for pre-K. For those classrooms to meet prekindergarten standards and create a developmentally appropriate environment for young children, retrofitting of those rooms will be required. The DOE has indicated that the cost to retrofit the classrooms at the 22 public schools it has identified as having space for pre-K, is \$650,000 per classroom, totaling \$14.3 million.

The ELB supports the request for CIP funding for these classrooms and thanks the committee for the opportunity to offer testimony.