



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Education  
Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

By  
David Lassner, President  
University of Hawai'i

### HB 1562 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1562 relating to the inclusion of the director of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Early Learning Board.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 1562. Since its establishment by the 2016 legislation, the Early Learning Board (ELB) has been responsible for:

1. Directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from prenatal care into kindergarten and improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early care and education programs.
2. Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children.
3. Serving as an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning.
4. Appointing and dismissing the director of EOEL.

Hawai'i P-20 strengthens the education pipeline from early childhood through postsecondary education and training with data-informed decision making, advocacy, policy coordination, and shared action. Its work is focused on high expectations and equitable access so that all students thrive in school, career, and life. This mission aligns with ELB's responsibilities to support young children's academic and life-long outcomes.

Hawai'i P-20 has served as a partner, advocate, and voice for the entire education pipeline, including but not limited to programs and initiatives that strengthen early learning. Specifically, its P-3 Initiative has worked closely with EOEL and early childhood stakeholders to develop the Hawai'i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS) and the Hawai'i State Literacy Plan. A recent partnership includes the management and implementation of the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five program, which led to the Hawai'i Early Childhood Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the Hawai'i Early Childhood Strategic Implementation Plan.

Furthermore, Hawai'i P-20 is capable of data analysis and facilitating of data sharing agreements throughout the educational pipeline and into the workforce, which could lend valuable perspectives to ELB.

The importance of establishing a solid educational foundation for our youngest students is paramount, and UH supports all efforts to proactively support, expand, and improve early learning opportunities throughout our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.



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

February 9, 2022

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair  
Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Housing

**FROM:** Coleen Momohara, Interim Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** H.B. No. 1562 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD  
**Hearing Date:** Thursday, February 10, 2022  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 229 and videoconference

**Bill Description:** Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the Early Learning Board.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S COMMENTS**

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is providing comments on H.B. No. 1562 – relating to the early learning board.

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. The Early Learning Board (ELB) was established as a governing board through Act 202, SLH 2017.

The ELB is responsible for directing the EOEL on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs; promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and appoint the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

Recognizing the important role the ELB has in both representing the diverse field of early care and education in Hawaii and providing key insight and guidance to the EOEL, the ELB's perspective on this bill is of utmost importance. The next ELB meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 10, 2022, during which this bill will be discussed. Following the meeting, EOEL will be able to provide more substantive comments regarding this bill, reflective of the needs expressed by ELB members. Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/10/2022

**Time:** 02:00 PM

**Location:** 309 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1562 RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD.

**Purpose of Bill:** Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the Early Learning Board.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1562.

The Department supports the addition of the Executive Director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawaii P-20) serving as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Early Learning Board. As the mission of Hawaii P-20 is to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through post-secondary education and training, the Executive Director's insight will be invaluable as part of the Early Learning Board. Furthermore, Hawaii P-20's capacity for data analysis and facilitation of data sharing agreements throughout the educational pipeline could prove to be helpful for the Early Learning Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1562.

**To:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee On Education

Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair  
Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee On Housing

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

**Subject:** **Measure:** HB 1562, Relating to Early Education  
**Hearing Date:** Thursday, February 10, 2022  
**Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Location:** Conference Room 309 Via Videoconference

**Description:** Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the Early Learning Board.

#### **Early Learning Board Position: Comments**

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments about HB 1562 on behalf of the ELB.

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.

The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors. This bill would increase the Board's current size by adding the Director of P-20 Partnerships for Education as a permanent, ex-officio and non-voting member of the ELB.

HB 1562 was introduced following the January Early Learning Board meeting. As a result, ELB has not had a chance to discuss, or take action on the bill. Legislative bills are on the February 10<sup>th</sup> ELB agenda and initial discussion of this bill and its implications are slated. Following that meeting, we will be in a better position to share the sense of the Board as it seeks to include the diversity of the early learning community in its deliberations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1562.

**HB-1562**

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:19:49 AM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Keith Hayashi	Hawaii Department of Education	Support	Yes

Comments:

Support

**HB-1562**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:08:51 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB1562.

**HB-1562**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:27:16 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Makanoe Hufana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1562.

Mahalo

Makanoe Hufana