



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

March 11, 2022

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** H.B. No. 1939 H.D. 1 – Relating to Early Learning  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022  
**Time:** 3:00 pm  
**Location:** Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**Bill Description:** Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources of the office. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1.)

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Supports the Intent**

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the intention of this bill, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the EOEL to enhance the office's capacity and resources.

We thank the Legislature for its support of EOEL's work to increase access to high-quality early learning. 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. In addition, pursuant to Act 046, SLH 2020, EOEL is responsible for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

The 2 FTE positions would help ensure EOEL has the capacity to achieve the Legislature's ambitious goal of increasing access to early learning programs and to fulfill the Office's statutory obligations to administer the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program and coordinate a high-quality early learning system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Hawai'i  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawai'i's children

*Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Senator Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

Re: **HB 1939 HD1, relating to early learning**  
3:00 PM, March 14, 2022

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of House bill 1939 HD1**, relating to early learning.

This measure would appropriate funding for two positions within the Executive Office on Early Learning. These are necessary positions for EOEL to fulfill its statutory obligations, including but not limited to, increasing access to affordable, quality early learning programs for children. EOEL works tirelessly to support children and families with a small, dedicated staff but to make significant improvements in our early learning system, they must be appropriately resourced.

**For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.**

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



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**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1939, H.D. 1

**March 14, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Room 229 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1939, H.D. 1, establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent Business Management Officer position and 1.00 FTE permanent Contract Specialist position and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for these positions for the Executive Office on Early Learning.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Date: March 13, 2022

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

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB1939 HD1, Relating to Early Learning**

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Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

**ECAS supports passage of HB1939 HD1**, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL).

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. The broad scope of this responsibility and the critical needs of children and families addressed by the work of the Office require appropriate resourcing.

**HB1939 HD1** would enhance capacity of EOEL at a pivotal point in the recovery and potential expansion of the early learning system in Hawaii and ECAS respectfully requests your support in passing this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB1939 HD1**.

**LATE**

**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:** HB 1939, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022  
**Time:** 3:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**Description:** Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources for the office. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

**Early Learning Board Position: Support**

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board, offering testimony in support of the intent of HB 1939, HD 1, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the EOEL to enhance the office's capacity and resources.

As the governing board for EOEL, we thank the Legislature for its support of EOEL's work to increase access to high-quality early learning. 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. In addition, pursuant to Act 046, SLH 2020, EOEL is responsible for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

The 2 FTE positions would help ensure EOEL has the capacity to achieve the Legislature's ambitious goal of increasing access to early learning programs and to fulfill the Office's statutory obligations to administer the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program and coordinate a high - quality early learning system. The positions would aide in fiscal/budget related matters and the creation and implementation of contracts related to expanding early learning programs and services associated with public and privately funded pre - K programs, Pre - Plus child development services, family - child interaction learning programs and systems coordination efforts..

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 1939, HD 1.