



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. 1939 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 10, 2022
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Videoconference

Bill Description: Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources for the office.

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.

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: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** HB 1939 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: Thursday February 10, 2022
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Videoconference

Description: Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources for the office.

Early Learning Board Position: Comments

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board, offering comments on HB 1939, 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.

Timing has prevented the ELB from discussing HB 1939; it is among the bills included on the agenda for the Board’s February 10th meeting. Given the Board’s commitment to supporting implementation of Act 046/210 and the on-going development of an early childhood system, the Board will most likely support the intent of this Bill knowing that the 2 FTE positions would help ensure EOEL has the capacity to achieve the Legislature’s ambitious goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written comments on HB 1939.

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
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1939

February 10, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

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

House Bill No. 1939 establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent Business Management Officer position and 1.00 FTE permanent Contract Specialist position and appropriates \$170,000 in 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.



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: Representative Woodson, Chair
Representative Kapela, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

Re: **HB 1939, relating to early learning**
2:00 PM, February 10, 2022

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and committee members,

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



— H a w a i i —
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:24:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Wast of Money this is not needed!!

HB-1939

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:27:49 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Makanoe Hufana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1939.

Mahalo

Makanoe Hufana