



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

February 25, 2022

**TO:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

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

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** H.B. No. 2000 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO EDUCATION  
**Hearing Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Videoconference

**Bill Description:** Appropriates moneys to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

**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 to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of preschool facilities, and defers to the Authority.

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 implements the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE). 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. As the School Facilities Authority develops plans to construct new school facilities, EOEL looks forward to collaborating with the Authority and HIDOE as it pertains to constructing preschool facilities and classrooms. We defer to the authority relating to the provisions in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**TO:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

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

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** HB 2000, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning  
**Hearing Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022  
**Time:** 11:00 A.M.  
**Location:** Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**Description:** Appropriates funds to the school facilities authority for the construction of preschool facilities. Effective 7/1/250. (HD1)

**Early Learning Board Position: Support the Intent**

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board, offering testimony in support of the intent of HB 2000, HD 1, which would appropriate funds to the school facilities authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

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.

Act 046, SLH 2020, assigns EOEL the responsibility for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds, which will require expanded facility capacity appropriate for young children. The ELB will support EOEL's efforts to collaborate with the Authority and HODOE as it pertains to constructing preschool facilities and classrooms. As does the EOEL, the ELB defers to the authority relating to the provisions in this bill.

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  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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 FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2000, H.D. 1

**February 25, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

House Bill No. 2000, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the construction of preschool facilities which shall be expended by the School Facilities Authority.

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:

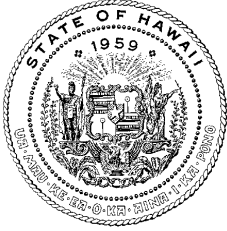
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support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



## SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY

c/o 869 Punchbowl Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813

David Y. Ige  
Governor

Alan Oshima  
Chairperson

IN REPLY REFER TO: **HB2000 FIN**

February 25, 2022  
11:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

### **H.B. 2000, H.D. 1 RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Committee on Finance

The School Facilities Authority (SFA) **supports** this measure that proposes an appropriation of general funds for the construction of preschool facilities.

The SFA is appreciative of the legislature's interest in funding these specific school facilities. Flexibility in the use of the funds is appreciated as there are a number of competing SFA priorities for capital improvement projects. The SFA requests your committee's consideration is expanding the purpose of the funding to include a broader range of school facilities including preschools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

February 25, 2022

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

We support HB 2000 HD1, which appropriates moneys to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

To attain the goal of Act 46, which is to provide access to quality early learning seats for all 3- and 4-year-olds in the State of Hawai'i, expansion of physical early learning facilities is necessary. We agree that the School Facilities Agency is the entity that could build or refurbish facilities appropriate for early learning most expediently. We would, however, like to understand the process of how the facilities expansion will occur. We look forward to more discussion and details regarding this bill.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director



Academy 21  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*HawaiiKidsCAN  
\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
Hawai'i Scholars for Education and Social Justice  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
\*Hawai'i Youth Service  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Native Hawaiian Education Council  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education

*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.  
President

Logan Okita.  
Vice President

Lisa Morrison  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 2000, HD1 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Luke, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports HB 2000, HD1** relating to education.

This bill will appropriate a yet unspecified amount to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

**We know well the importance of early learning and that it begins in preschool. High quality early education represents one of the best investments we can make for our collective future, especially that of our young keiki. To facilitate the demand for public preschools in Hawaii we believe it is important to aim for a preschool on every elementary school campus across the state. That effort can start with this bill.**

**Building preschool facilities on already existing and operating elementary school campuses will help in terms of time and money as both the land and infrastructure are readily available for construction of preschools. What's more, once the preschools are built and operating, it could provide convenience for families with multiple young children, as well as the potential to share resources and staff across the campus.**

We need to expand public preschool. Now is the time to move quickly ahead. Families across Hawaii cannot wait any longer for early learning and preschool options for their keiki.

To provide early learning opportunities all across Hawai'i, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support this bill.**





# Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 25, 2022

Where: Conference Room 308

## TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona  
Kamehameha Schools

RE: **HB 2000, HD1, Relating to Education**

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Yamashita, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** HB 2000, HD1, which appropriates moneys to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

The enactment of Act 46 (2020) was a pivotal step forward and we must remain steadfast in our commitment to this future in Hawai‘i. Since the start of the pandemic, Hawai‘i has lost over 3,600 seats, at least 6 preschools and many more family childcare providers. Our keiki cannot afford to lose any more.

Facilities space and cost continue to be a major hurdle to expanding access to unserved three- and four-year-old keiki across Hawai‘i. In the Hawai‘i Early Learning Needs Assessment (2017), center-based program directors listed the lack of space or appropriate facilities as the most common barrier to increasing the number of seats in their classrooms. Investing in the construction of preschool facilities is the next big step toward ensuring the future we all envision and the future that our keiki deserve. **Please advance this measure.**

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. Hānai i ke keiki; ola ka lāhui.

‘A‘ohe ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou. There is no success without preparation.

**HB-2000-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:48:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Wai'ale'ale Sarsona	Kamehameha Schools	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha. Written testimony was previously submitted and Wai'ale'ale will be present to testify.  
Mahalo.

Date: February 24, 2022

To: House Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB2000 HD1, Relating to Education**

---

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 HB2000 HD1**, which would appropriate funds to the to the School Facilities Authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

The enactment of Act 46 (2020) was a pivotal commitment by the State to providing access to quality early learning seats for all 3- and 4-year-olds in Hawaii. Availability of space and costs for facilities, however, are critical barriers to increasing the number and capacity of early learning programs in the state. Appropriation of funding for development and construction of facilities would be instrumental to moving forward with the expansion of access intended by Act 46 and critically needed for our keiki.

To expand the scope of early learning programs that might benefit from the development of new facilities, ECAS does respectfully request an amendment to the bill to replace the reference to "preschool" facilities to "early care and learning" facilities.

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the construction of ~~preschool~~ **early care and learning** facilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB2000 HD1**.



## Children's Action Network Speaks!

Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

To: Representative Luke, Chair  
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 2000 HD1, relating to education**  
11:00 AM, February 25, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of House bill 2000**, relating to education.

We support the intention of HB 2000. Facilities for early care and learning programs are in desperate need. However, the process of how locations for the construction of preschool facilities would occur and if construction includes renovations of an existing facility or creating a new facility. We hope as the bill moves forward additional information becomes available.

I also request the measure be amended for more inclusive language that represents who is providing early learning programs to three- and four-year-olds.

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the construction of ~~preschool facilities.~~ **Licensed child care or preschool facilities**

**HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support and amend this measure.**

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director, Early Learning and Health Policy

Feb. 24, 2022

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

From: Dr. Terry Lock, Director  
Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education

Subject: Measure – HB 2000 HD1: RELATING TO EDUCATION.  
Hearing Date - February 25, 2022  
Time – 11:00 am  
Location: Room 308 and videoconference

Support of HB 2000 HD1: Relating to Education

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education and currently serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project. This project's goal is to transform early childhood education lead teacher preparation programs and compensation/ financing systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am in strong support of HB 2000 HD 1 because it builds upon what is established by Act 46 and seeks to expand public preschools and increase funding for the construction of preschool programs for our three-year olds and four-year olds across our state.

My only suggestion is to change from calling them preschool programs, to calling them early care and learning programs, to be more inclusive of various settings that will give families options for their three-year old and four-year old children and still meet health, safety and performance standards.

Research has shown how high-quality child care and early learning programs show documented benefits for children's overall development and learning.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of HB 2000 HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Terry Lock