



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

February 7, 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:** S.B. No. 2038 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hearing Date: Wednesday February 9, 2022
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Room 229 and videoconference

Bill Description: Requires that each neighbor island county is represented on the early learning board without term limits, subject to removal and replacement by the major of the respective counties.

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 S.B. No. 2038 – 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.

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.

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee On Education

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** SB 2038, Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022
Time: 3:30 PM
Location: Conference Room 229 and videoconference

Description: Requires that each neighbor island county is represented on the early learning board without term limits, subject to removal and replacement by the mayor of the respective counties

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 SB 2038 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. Currently there is a statutory provision for one appointed representative of the Council of Mayors on the Board, who serves with a term limit.

SB 2038 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 10th ELB agenda and initial discussion of this bill and its implications will occur. 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 SB 2038.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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February 7, 2022

Chair, Sen. Michelle Kidani
Vice-Chair, Sen. Donna Mercado Kim
Committee on Education
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: S.B. 2038 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING BOARD MEMBERSHIP
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members;

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my support for SB 2038 for fiscal year 2022-2023 regarding neighbor island representation on the Early Learning Board.

I firmly believe that our keiki's educational challenges and opportunities cannot be fully understood or realized without representation from all counties on the state Early Learning Board. This bill promotes equity and inclusiveness in the board's membership and deserves your sincerest consideration.

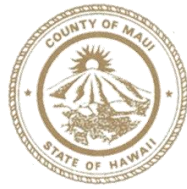
Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Mahalo,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor
County of Hawai'i

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 8, 2022

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

Testimony of Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, Maui County,
on
S. B. 2038
Relating to Early Learning

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
3:30 P. M.
Conference Room 229 + Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

As Mayor of Maui County, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB2038. This proposal would require each neighbor island county be represented on the early learning board without term limits, subject to removal and replacement by the mayor of the respective counties.

The Early Learning Board (ELB) is tasked with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning, including directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (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 appointing the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

The Board consists of 13 members, yet currently, only one seat is available for neighbor island representation, to be appointed by the Hawaii Council of Mayors. An appointment to this seat has not been made for the last two (2) years and essentially

February 8, 2022
Page 2

the counties have been without a voice at the table. SB2038 will allow each Mayor to appoint a representative from their County with no term limits.

Maui County has supported an Early Childhood Resource Coordinator for more than 20 years. Until two years ago we maintained a seat on the ELB and for the last two years that seat has remained empty. It is critical, as we support a statewide system for child care, that there is neighbor island, and more specifically, County, participation and input. I believe that addition of seats on the ELB will not only provide equity but also contributions from across the state.

Please vote to pass this bill.

Submitted By:

Michael P. Victorino, Mayor County of Maui

Contact: Stacy Crivello, Community Liaison, Office of the Mayor (808-270-1795)

SB-2038

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:13:31 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melanie Padgett	Testifying for Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center	Support	No

Comments:

I am highly in favor of this bill. In my job as Maui County Early Childhood Resource Project Specialist I work with hundreds of families from all islands of Maui County. Their needs vary greatly depending on where they live. It is essential that they have a knowledgeable person from Maui County representing them on the ELB at all times. I believe every County should have a member serving on the board, so that the unique needs of each county are addressed equally and adequately.

Thank You for Consideration of this Important Bill

Melanie Padgett

Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center Project Specialist

808-242-1608



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii'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: **SB 2038- relating to early learning**
3:30 PM, February 9, 2022

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of SB 2038, relating to early learning.

Representation from all the counties would strengthen the membership of the Early Learning Board. Each county has their own needs and deserves a seat at the table.

Thank you,
Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

Date: February 7, 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 SB2038, Relating to Early Learning

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 strongly supports passage of SB2038, which would require that each neighbor island county be represented on the Early Learning Board, without term limits.

The Early Learning Board (ELB) is tasked with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning, and counts among its responsibilities:

- Directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; and
- Providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs.

The needs of children and their families, as well as the range and accessibility of early care and learning programs vary widely across the state, with distinct features and unique service gaps on each island based on local geography, population, resources and priorities. The ELB, however, does not have seats dedicated to full neighbor-island representation. Currently, member seats on the ELB are not filled by individuals spanning every island/county and those individuals who do reside on neighbor islands/counties hold seats designated for the interests of specific types of service providers or institutions. Representation of neighbor islands/counties by existing seat-holders is insufficient and not equitable to having assigned seats designated to represent the wider landscape of county perspectives, interests, and needs. Counties need representatives on the ELB that are knowledgeable of the early childhood system and the needs of keiki and ohana in their specific communities, and can serve as vehicles for authentic two-way communication between the neighbor islands and the ELB.

A key tenet in ECAS' policy and advocacy work is that efforts to address inequities and reduce disparities for vulnerable populations and underserved communities should be embedded into every aspect of early childhood systems design and service delivery. A critical component to addressing inequities and reducing disparities is to ensure equitable representation in those systems and institutions that play pivotal roles in the determination of policies and development of services. SB2038 would help ensure a permanent voice for each county/neighbor island in the ongoing development of the state's early care and learning system.

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

SB-2038

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:05:05 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angela Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Kidani, Chair

Senator Kim, Vice-Chair

Aloha Chair Kidani and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB2038.

My name is Angela Thomas and I am a resident of Waimea, on Hawaii Island. I have had a long career in many early childhood roles and I believe this bill will allow community and County input into a statewide planning and policy process.

The Early Learning Board (ELB) is tasked with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning, including directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (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 appointing the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

The Board consists of 13 members, yet, only one seat is available for neighbor island representation, to be appointed by the Hawaii Council of Mayors and that seat must represent ALL neighbor islands. While some ELB representatives from other sectors may reside on a neighbor island, they represent their sector rather than the wider landscape of county perspective, interests and needs. This bill will allow each Mayor to appoint a representative from their County with no term limits. The precedent has already been set for seats that do not term out which include the ex-officio positions and the two representing the private sector. Mayors would be able to appoint representatives to coterminous timeframes or change an appointee during his/her term.

SB2038 will also provide a vehicle for two-way communication within the counties and to and from the ELB.

I believe that the early childhood system is in crisis and this period of time provides us a unique opportunity to look at doing things differently. We all need to work together collaboratively, and rather than continuing the top-down approach we should all have equal input and representation.

SB-2038

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 10:49:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Sakai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, all of the neighbor islands should have representation on this panel. Each island's demographics and needs are different and all voices should be heard. Mahalo.

SB-2038

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 11:17:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gail Judd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Neighbor island representation by county is fair representation for the entire state. Each county representative should be considered a valuable contributor to meeting the developmental and educational needs of young children.

SB-2038

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 4:39:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Neighbor island representation is so important to the Early Learning Board to understand the issues and complexity of early learning in rural areas.

SB-2038

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 6:18:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/9/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anna Peters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2038 that each neighbor island is represented on the early learning board.

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Kidani, Chair
Senator Kim, Vice-Chair

Aloha Chair Kidani and committee members,

As the Early Childhood Resource Coordinator for Maui County, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB2038.

The Early Learning Board (ELB) is tasked with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning, including directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (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 appointing the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

The Board consists of 13 members, yet, only one seat is available for neighbor island representation, to be appointed by the Hawaii Council of Mayors. An appointment to this seat has not been made for the last 2 years, thus leaving the counties without a voice at the table. SB2038 will allow each Mayor to appoint a representative from their County with no term limits.

I have held the position of the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Coordinator for 14 years now. I have been involved with the various iterations of what is now the Early Learning Board since I started in the position. It is essential representation from the counties as part of the Early Learning Board make up, both to provide information and perspective as well as to distribute information. Maui County has supported an Early Childhood Resource Coordinator position for over 20 years. Until two years ago Maui County was able to recommend me (through my position) for a seat on the ELB appointed by the Hawaii County of mayors. For the last two years that seat has remained empty. It is critical, as we support a statewide system for child care that there is neighbor island, and more specifically, County, participation and input on ELB matters and decision making. I believe giving each mayor the autonomy to appoint someone to an ELB position will better connect the counties and the state around early childhood matters.

I believe that addition of seats will not only provide equity but also contributions from across the state. Please vote to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Ka'ina Bonacorsi



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 9, 2022

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senate Bill 2038– Relating to Early Learning

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 2038 Relating to Early Learning.

The bill would require that each neighbor island county is represented on the Early Learning Board without term limits, subject to removal and replacement by the Mayor of the respective counties.

Please consider a parent who has a child with a disability and/or individuals with disabilities who have expertise and understanding of delayed speech, language development or English as second language learners from prenatal care until entering kindergarten to serve on the Early Learning Board to formulate a statewide policy relating to early learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

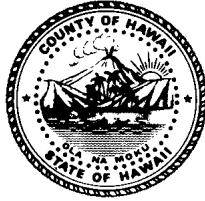
Respectfully submitted,

Kirby L. Shaw

for

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams
Director

Robert Agres, Jr.
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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LATE

February 9, 2022

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Kidani, Chair
Senator Kim, Vice-Chair

Re: SB2038

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim and Committee Members,

The County of Hawai'i is grateful for the opportunity to express our support for SB2038, the proposal for expanded neighbor-island/County representation on the Early Learning Board (ELB). As the community starts recovering from the global effects of COVID-19 pandemic, we are once again recognizing the extreme importance of the early childhood development and its impact on local families and the economy.

While we are in full support of the mission of the ELB, which is to ensure developmental and educational needs of children are met from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten, we are advocating to diversify and increase the Board representations. Currently only one seat is appointed by the Hawai'i Council of Mayors to represent the all-neighbor islands within the Board which consists of 13 members. We are concerned that voices and needs of the early childhood development from the neighbor-islands are not sufficiently addressed without having local representations from each county.

This proposed bill would expand the Board to include three additional seats per county for the ELB to better reflect the voices and needs from the neighbor-islands.

SB2038 will also provide the opportunity for each Mayor to appoint local representation from their county with no term limit. The precedent has already been set for seats that do not term out which include the ex-officio positions and the two representing the private sector. In addition, Mayors would be able to appoint representatives to coterminous timeframes or change an appointee during their term.

We must collectively face the challenges in the early childhood system, seek strategies and implement solutions. We believe that SB2038, which intends to establish the insightful communication between the counties and the ELB, will further strengthen its actions and recommendations for early childhood development and education.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglass S. Adams".

Douglass S. Adams
Director, Research and Development