



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

April 12, 2022

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

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

SUBJECT: **Measure:** SCR 217, SD 1
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Videoconference & conference room 309

Bill Description: Requesting the early learning board to prepare a report containing a road map, including proposed legislation, for the implementation of Act 046, SLH 2020.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING: Support the Intent

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the intent of SCR 217 SD 1 and defers to the Early Learning Board (ELB) related to the provisions and implementation of the resolution.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system and the ELB was established as the 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 appointing the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

Act 046, SLH 2020, aims to build the infrastructure to increase capacity of early learning programs and services to serve one hundred percent of all otherwise unserved 3- and 4-year-olds. SCR 217 requests the ELB to convene a working group to develop a roadmap for the implementation of Act 046. EOEL looks forward to supporting the board's efforts should this resolution pass, and looks forward to continue our efforts to coordinate and collaborate with key stakeholders in the implementation of Act 046.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** SCR 217, SD 1
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Conference Room 309 and videoconference

Description: Requesting the Early Learning Board to prepare a report containing a road map, including proposed legislation, for the implementation of Act 46, Sessions Laws of Hawaii 2020.

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 SCR 217, SD 1 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, the ELB along with the Executive Office on Early Learning and its associated partners, are engaged in planning the implementation of Act 046/Act 210 to expand access to early care and learning for all 3- and 4-year olds, as defined by statute benchmarks. Act 210 passed during the last Legislative Session has made it possible for the ELB to hire an Institutional Analyst to coordinate implementation efforts and to work with the public agencies responsible for expanding access to quality early learning opportunities, including expansion of the Public Pre-K, and with private providers who serve our *keiki* and their families.

Key responsibilities of the coordinator's position include convening government agencies and stakeholders to coordinate implementation plans, developing a "build-out" plan with affected agencies, monitoring and reporting about implementation progress, providing updates regularly to the ELB and stakeholders and making policy recommendations including needed legislation to move plans forward. Given that the coordinator's role with its broad responsibilities is the only position designed specifically to facilitate implementation of Act 046, engaging a work group to support those efforts in partnership with EOEL will increase effectiveness and efficiency.

The ELB report to the Legislature due date requested in SCR 217, SD 1 is 20 days prior to the 2023 Regular Session. That time frame allows fewer than 6 months to convene a workgroup, gather the needed information, analyze it, prepare a roadmap for implementation of Act 046 and identify legislation required to support that implementation.

As Chair of the ELB, I respectfully request that the Legislative report due date cited in SCR 217, SD 1 be changed to 20 days prior to the 2024 Regular Session. Such a change offers a more realistic time frame to gather the needed data (individual Island needs and their corresponding

community options), determine what currently exists upon which to build (including facilities and workforce), identify infrastructure and capacity-building plans, and ensure sufficient opportunity for the working group to gather and share community input in the development of a meaningful roadmap with legislative suggestions included.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Unfortunately, this hearing time conflicts with the monthly ELB meeting and, therefore, only written testimony can be submitted. If any committee members have questions for me, I am happy to respond to them either via email or through a meeting.

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Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Date: April 14, 2022

Where: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: SCR 217, SD1, Requesting the Early Learning Board to Prepare a Report Containing a Road Map, Including Proposed Legislation, For the Implementation of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2020

E ka Luna Ho‘omalua Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Kapela, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao 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** SCR 217, SD1, which requests that the Early Learning Board prepare a report containing a road map, including proposed legislation, for implementation of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2020.

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. With the power to formulate statewide policy relating to early learning, we strongly believe that the Early Learning Board (ELB) has a critical role to play in achieving the vision and goals of Act 46 (2020).

We support this measure and its request to the ELB to prepare a report containing a road map, including proposed legislation, for the implementation of Act 46 (2020) and to submit its final report to the Legislature prior to the start of next year’s legislative session. This measure also requests that the ELB convene a working group, composed of relevant state agency representatives and community stakeholders, to assist the board in preparing the report. We, an invited member of the ELB, stand prepared to assist in getting this critical work done.

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. **Please advance this measure.**



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

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

Re: **SCR 217 SD1, Requesting The Early Learning Board To Prepare A Report Containing A Road Map, Including Proposed Legislation, For The Implementation Of Act 46, Session Laws Of Hawaii 2020.**

2:00 PM, April 14, 2022

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments on SCR 217, Requesting The Early Learning Board To Prepare A Report Containing A Road Map, Including Proposed Legislation, For The Implementation Of Act 46, Session Laws Of Hawaii 2020.**

Act 210 (2021) funded one full-time position to coordinate, staff, and facilitate the implementation of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020. This position will report directly to the Early Learning Board. It is our understanding that the position is in the process of being filled. It is unclear how the roadmap would interact with the position.

Act 46 (2020) mandated specific actions be taken by The Executive Office on Early Learning, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Education, and other state agencies for the expansion of early learning programs. It is unclear the progress each entity had made thus far.

If the roadmap resolution does move forward, it may also be an opportunity to expand on the unfinished work of Act 46, including looking at workforce shortages, amending the state constitution, and how to ensure expansion of preschool programs does not incentivize programs to discontinue providing infant and toddler programs.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

FROM: Micah A. Kāne, Chief Executive Officer & President – Hawai'i Community Foundation

RE: Testimony in Support of SCR 217, Requesting the Early Learning Board to Prepare a Report containing a Road Map, for the Implementation of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020.

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports SCR 217. The Early Learning Board is a representative body with the mission to support the early learning and health systems with a focus on prenatal to Kindergarten entry, and would be an appropriate entity to develop a report containing Act 46 implementation road map and proposed legislation. Designing a great early learning system requires attention, collaboration, and knowledge of the current landscape of early care and learning. The Early Learning Board has demonstrated these core competencies in developing the Early Childhood State Plan and strategic implementation plans. Our youngest kids are too important to wait on developing a plan to expand access to early care and learning programs. In Hawaii, 54% (or 20,000) of 3- and 4-year olds are not in child care, preschool or kindergarten, which is lower than the national average. This resolution is an critical step toward making good on Hawaii's commitment to accessible, affordable and quality early learning for all families.

At HCF, we believe that the wellbeing and development of children under age five is a core component to strengthening Hawai'i's communities. A plan would help set in motion the road map so that eligible families who want to participate can have convenient and affordable child care and early learning options, whether they live in Honolulu, Hana, or Hilo. It would also provide proposals for any legislation needed to enable the implementation of Act 46. The timeline for expansion is rapid by design; we can not wait for another generation of children 0-5 to grow up without adequate access to care and learning opportunities. The stabilization of our families and our economy depend on the strong foundation of reliable child care and early learning in every community across Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 217.

Date: April 12, 2022

To: House Committee on Education
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for SCR217 SD1, Requesting a Report/Road Map for Implementation of Act 46, SLH2020**

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 SCR217 SD1, which request the Early Learning Board to prepare a report containing a road map, including proposed legislation, for the implementation of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020.

The passage of Act 046, SLH 2020, was a significant step toward expanding access to early learning programs for all of Hawai'i's 3- and 4-year-olds. The Act includes provisions that would support inclusion of private and public sector programs via a mixed delivery system, require coordination across multiple agencies, and necessitate consideration of a multitude of workforce, capacity-building, governance and financing strategies to support expansion goals.

Development of a comprehensive and coordinated strategic plan or "road map" for implementation will be instrumental in moving Act 046 efforts forward. As the body responsible for providing recommendations to the Executive Office on Early Learning on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs, and promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children, the Early Learning Board (ELB) can provide the necessary leadership to convene, facilitate, and coordinate efforts to develop such a plan.

The ELB is also well-connected and positioned within the early care and learning system to ensure diversity of representation and inclusion in the composition of the working group tasked with the development of the plan or "road map" and is urged to do so.

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