



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

March 19, 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:** SCR 217  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022  
**Time:** 3:15 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 229 and videoconference

**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**

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports SCR 217 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.

Date: March 20, 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 SCR217/SR210, Requesting a Report/Road Map for Implementation of Act 46, SLH2020

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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 SCR217/SR210**, 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 these resolutions.



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

**LATE**

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

Re: **SCR 217/ SR 210, Requesting The Early Learning Board To Evaluate And Report To The Legislature Regarding The Board's Composition And Charter And To Develop A Strategic Plan.**  
3:15 PM, March 21, 2022

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments on SCR 217/ SR 210, 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

**LATE**

**TO:** COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

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

**RE:** Testimony in Support of SCR 217/ SR 210, 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.

Monday, March 21, 2022, 3:15 p.m.

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports SCR 217/ SR 210. 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 a 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/ SR 210.