



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 02/05/2024

**Time:** 03:15 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 3087 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

**Purpose of Bill:** Expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is providing testimony in support of SB 3087.

Studies have shown that quality early learning opportunities have a lifelong positive impact on Hawaii's keiki and their families. These learning environments offer their keiki a critical first step toward social and emotional skills, motor development, math, literacy, and critical thinking. Early learning opportunities also provide parents and caregivers a chance to work outside the home when their young ones have safe and nurturing environments to spend their day.

Over the last several months, the Department has been working collaboratively with the Lieutenant Governor, the School Facilities Authority, and other public and private stakeholders to renovate and upgrade existing public school facilities to increase the number of public early learning classrooms. Expanding this effort to include other state properties and public lands will no doubt have a positive impact on making access to early education opportunities available to a broader community. The Department looks forward to contributing to and supporting this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3087.





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

February 3, 2024

**TO:** Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

**FROM:** Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** S.B. No. 3087 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, February 5, 2024  
**Time:** 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Conference Room 229

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is committed to expanding early learning opportunities for all keiki across the State and is in strong support of S.B. No. 3087.

High-quality early learning programs yield substantial positive immediate and long-term, multigenerational benefits. High-quality early learning programs have positive effects on the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional outcomes of children. In addition, these programs allow families opportunities to continue education or work by providing a safe and secure place to enroll their children.

In 2020, legislation was enacted demonstrating the State's commitment to increasing access to early learning programs by charging EOEL and DHS with ensuring all three and four-year old keiki have access to prekindergarten by 2032. As EOEL continues to expand the EOEL public prekindergarten program, it is critical to also focus on expanding community-based options as these programs are necessary to meet families' unique needs and demands. Community-based programs offer services that may be longer in duration, assisting families who work traditional and non-traditional hours; culturally and linguistically based; provided in a home-setting, which may be more comfortable or preferred by families; or may accept younger children from birth onward.

Although the State continues to address access, affordability is still a significant barrier for Hawai'i's families. Despite efforts to keep rates low, community-based programs continue to operate on razor-thin margins, making the sustenance of these beneficial programs difficult.

The intention of this bill is to expand public-private partnerships for all young keiki by administering programs in existing vacant public spaces. Presently, section 302L-1.7, HRS, authorizes EOEL to administer pre-plus programs through private-public partnerships on Department of Education (HIDOE) public school campuses. S.B. No. 3087 would expand access to affordable early learning programs through offering potentially more cost-effective spaces by allowing programs to be administered on other public properties in addition to HIDOE campuses.

EOEL is committed to working with other State agencies that own or oversee these properties to provide early learning spaces, with priority given to communities and areas with limited access to early learning programs and services.

EOEL would like to note that this bill would utilize the terminology “early learning”, rather than “pre-plus”, as “early learning” is already defined in section 302 L-1, HRS. This bill also does not require any funding or fiscal support.

We appreciate the Legislature’s continued investments to our youngest keiki and families and respectfully request the committee to pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.



**SB3087**  
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
Senate Committee on Education

February 5, 2024

3:15 PM

Room 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS and offers comments** on SB3087, which expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

OHA is in its fourth year of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola. The development of this strategic plan included gathering community input via surveys and focus groups as well as mana‘o from internal staff. **One of the most critical needs that our community repeated was ‘ohana’s ability to provide high-quality keiki and kūpuna care.**

SB3087 will support the state’s ongoing efforts to expand early childhood care and education. In 2020—the same year our strategic plan began—the State Legislature passed Act 46 setting a vision for 100% access to early learning opportunities. We believe this measure is one component that will help the state both achieve the Legislature’s vision and meet the needs that OHA has identified for the Hawaiian people.

The Pre-Plus Program has been an important piece of the early learning puzzle, allowing community-based Head Start providers to offer early learning programs on public school campuses. OHA sees SB3087 as having the potential to expand the impact of a program like Pre-Plus. It sets the tone to prioritize the development of early learning programs in facilities, and it adjusts the existing pre-plus statute to have the possibility for greater reach. The inclusion of other public properties will provide the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) the authority to work beyond public schools to realize its obligations for universal access.

OHA would also like to respectfully remind the State Legislature of the state’s obligations to steward crown and government lands, also known as ceded or public land trust lands. Our understanding of this measure is that it will provide facilities for low- or no-cost to community-based providers. This is consistent with the way **early childhood**



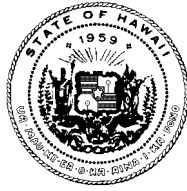
**SENATE BILL 3087**  
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
Senate Committee on Education

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**care and education must be seen as a public good.** We support these lands being used for this purpose rather than for the purpose of generating revenue. We would also like to ensure that the implementation of this expanded program taking careful precautions not to allow for the alienation of any public property that may be part of the public land trust.

OHA believes this program can be an integral component to the State's efforts to actualize Act 46 (SLH 2020). We respectfully request the committee advance SB3087. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'ŌKELE

February 4, 2024

To: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3087 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.**

Hearing: Monday, February 5, 2024, Time 3:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure and defers to the Executive Office on Early Learning for implementation.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to expand access to early learning programs to other state properties and public lands besides public school campuses.

The Department supports efforts to expand availability and access to child care throughout the State. This measure is an additional piece of legislation to fully implement a goal set out in Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, of providing all children who are 3 to 4 years old who are in the two years prior to kindergarten entry with enrollment in a preschool program by the year 2030.

The DHS child care program staff will work with the Executive Office on Early Learning and be available to child care providers and facilities on other state properties and public lands to ensure providers are informed of the health and safety requirements for licensing should they be required to be licensed by the Department.

February 4, 2024

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TO:** Senator Michelle N. Kidani,  
Chair  
Donna Mercado Kim, Vice  
Chair  
Senate Committee on  
Education

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

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 3087 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, February 5, 2024  
**Time:** 3:15 pm  
**Location:** Conference Room 229

**Early Learning Board Position: Support**

The Early Learning Board supports the Executive Office on Early Learning’s (EOEL) commitment to expanding early learning opportunities for all keiki across the State and is, therefore, in strong support of S.B. No. 3087.

The intention of this bill is to expand public-private partnerships for all young keiki by administering programs in existing vacant public spaces. Presently, section 302L-1.7, HRS, authorizes EOEL to administer pre-plus programs through private-public partnerships on Department of Education (HIDOE) public school campuses. S.B. No. 3087 would expand access to affordable early learning programs through offering potentially more cost-effective spaces by allowing programs to be administered on other public properties in addition to HIDOE campuses.

The Board is confident that EOEL will work collaboratively and effectively with other State agencies that own or oversee these properties to provide early learning spaces, with priority given to communities and areas with limited access to early learning programs and services.

As EOEL continues to expand the EOEL public prekindergarten program, it is critical to also focus on expanding community-based options as these programs are necessary to meet families’ unique needs and demands, while supporting choice. Community-based programs tend to offer services that extend beyond the traditional school day, helping to meet the care needs of families who work traditional and non-traditional hours.

EOEL notes in its testimony this bill would utilize the terminology “early learning”, rather than “pre-plus”, as “early learning” is already defined in section 302 L-1, HRS. This bill also does not require any funding or fiscal support

The ELB appreciates the on-going support from the Legislature to expand access to quality early learning for Hawaii’s keiki. We strongly support this measure and respectfully ask that S.B. No. 3087 be passed. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.



Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

February 5, 2024

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee,

We support SB 3087, which expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides DOE campuses.

Expansion of early learning programs beyond DOE properties is an innovative and effective way to use State properties that are underutilized or are in locations where early learning programs can grow. This legislation aligns with Act 46, which created a goal to expand preschool access to all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2032.

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 for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE’E Coalition Director



Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21

Alliance for Place Based Learning

American Civil Liberties Union

Atherton YMCA

Education Institute of Hawai'i

\*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawai'i

\*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 Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

\* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

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

\* Youth Service Hawai'i

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

To: Senate Committee on Education

**Re: SB 3087 – in strong support**

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229

February 5, 2024; 3:15PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3087 relating to Early Learning**.

Early childhood education is a crucial foundation for lifelong learning and success. Research consistently demonstrates that children who have access to high-quality early learning programs are more likely to excel academically, exhibit better social skills, and experience improved long-term outcomes in terms of health and economic well-being. By extending early learning opportunities to state-owned properties and public lands, we have the potential to reach a broader and more diverse population of young learners and create equitable access to early learning opportunities across Hawai'i.

This thoughtful approach not only enhances educational outcomes but can also strengthen community engagement and collaboration. By involving various stakeholders, including local communities, non-profit organizations, and businesses, we can create a network of support that extends beyond traditional educational settings. This collaborative approach will not only enrich the learning experience for children but also foster a sense of shared responsibility for their well-being and development.

HCAN Speaks! urges the committee to consider the long-term benefits and positive impact that this proposed bill can have on our state's early learning efforts and the overall well-being of our young keiki and communities. Utilizing existing buildings on state-owned properties and public lands is a visionary step towards creating a more inclusive, innovative, and effective early learning system that is cost-effective to the state, early learning programs, and, most of all, our families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. **Please pass SB 3087.**

Mahalo,

Chevelle Davis, MPH

Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy

Date: February 4, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support for **SB3087**, Relating to Early Learning

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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 strongly supports passage of SB3087**, which would expand access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

High-quality early care and learning programs are fundamental to providing children with dependable, nurturing relationships, safe environments, and stimulating experiences that are critical for brain development and school readiness. Experiences in high-quality early care and learning programs can lead to improved educational, economic, health and well-being outcomes for children, lasting into adulthood. Hawaii, however, faces a significant shortage of early care and learning programs, with only one program space for every four children under the age of six.

**SB3087** would support the State's commitment to increasing access to early learning programs by allowing for the use of space for early learning programs beyond HIDOE campuses to other, existing vacant public spaces. This expansion of options will help facilitate growth of a larger spectrum of early care and learning programs to better meet the unique needs and preferences of children and families, such as the needs for full-day, full-year programs, or programs for infants and toddlers.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB3087**. With the limited availability of quality early care and learning seats we strongly support the bill's proposal to expand available options and increase access to early learning opportunities for a wider range of children.

**LATE**

**SB-3087**

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 8:59:27 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Melody Young	Testifying for CARES	Support	In Person

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support.

**LATE**

**S.B. NO. 3087**

JAN 24 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 302A-1151.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
2 is amended to read as follows:

3           "**§302A-1151.5 Use of vacant public school facilities.**

4       (a) When the department considers whether to close any  
5 particular public school, it shall simultaneously give  
6 reasonable consideration to making all or portions of the  
7 facilities of the public school available to charter schools and  
8 ~~[pre-plus]~~ early learning programs; provided that the facilities  
9 may be used for any other purpose the board deems appropriate.

10       (b) The department shall identify unused public school  
11 facilities that may be appropriate for:

12           (1) Charter schools;

13           (2) Early learning programs [~~, such as the pre-plus~~  
14 ~~program~~]; and

15           (3) Any other purpose the board deems appropriate.

16 Suitable empty classrooms, as determined by the department,  
17 shall be inventoried for potential use by charter schools, early  
18 learning programs, [~~such as the pre-plus program,~~] or for any

# S.B. NO. 3087

1 other purpose the board deems appropriate. Priority shall be  
2 given to facilities on sites with sufficient space for three or  
3 more classrooms.

4 (c) The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry  
5 out the purposes of this section.

6 (d) For purposes of this section, "public school" means  
7 any school that falls within the definition of public schools in  
8 section 302A-101, except for charter schools.

9 [H] (e) [H] Upon receipt of a notice pursuant to subsection  
10 (b), the executive office on early learning shall solicit  
11 applications from [~~pre-plus~~] early learning programs interested  
12 in using and occupying all or portions of the facilities of the  
13 public school and submit a prioritized list of [~~pre-plus~~] early  
14 learning programs to the department for final determination of  
15 which [~~pre-plus~~] early learning program, if any, shall be  
16 authorized to use and occupy the public school facilities."

17 SECTION 2. Section 302D-35, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

19 "(b) Each department shall provide notice to the  
20 superintendent and state public charter school commission  
21 identifying suitable unused facilities that may be appropriate  
22 for:



# S.B. NO. 3087

- 1 (1) Public charter schools; and
- 2 (2) Early learning programs [~~, including the pre plus~~
- 3 ~~program,~~] that are affiliated with a public charter
- 4 school.

5 The department of accounting and general services shall  
6 inventory the suitable facilities, and, in determining  
7 suitability for educational reuse, priority shall be given to  
8 facilities on sites with sufficient space for three or more  
9 classrooms."

10 SECTION 3. Section 302L-1.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 "§302L-1.7 Early learning [~~facilities; pre plus.~~]  
13 programs. (a) There is established [~~the pre plus~~] a program  
14 within the office to expand access to affordable and high-  
15 quality early learning for children from low-income families who  
16 are not otherwise eligible for kindergarten, by allowing  
17 [~~preschool programs~~] early learning programs to be established  
18 on public school campuses and other available public properties  
19 through public-private partnerships.

20 (b) The office [~~, the department of education, and the~~  
21 ~~department of human services~~] shall work collaboratively with  
22 other applicable public agencies to [~~develop suitable pre plus~~

# S.B. NO. 3087

1 ~~classrooms on department of education campuses]~~ contract with  
2 early learning programs statewide [~~including charter conversion~~  
3 ~~charter school campuses]~~. The [executive] office [~~on early~~  
4 ~~learning, with the department of education and department of~~  
5 ~~human services,~~] and other applicable public agencies shall  
6 coordinate site selection for additional [~~pre plus programs at]~~  
7 early learning programs on public school sites [~~]~~ and other  
8 available public properties, with priority given to [~~public~~  
9 ~~school sites that serve at risk children as defined in section~~  
10 ~~302L-1, including]~~ sites located in areas with limited access to  
11 early learning programs and services."

12 SECTION 4. Section 302L-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (p) to read as follows:

14 "(p) The department of education may use available  
15 classrooms for public preschool programs statewide. Preschool  
16 classrooms established pursuant to this section shall be in  
17 addition to any classrooms used for [~~the pre plus program]~~ early  
18 learning programs established pursuant to section 302L-1.7."

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

S.B. NO. 3087

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

3

INTRODUCED BY: *Wm. M. M.*

4

BY REQUEST

# S.B. NO. 3087

**Report Title:**

Executive Office on Early Learning; Early Learning Facilities

**Description:**

Expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

## JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Education

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

PURPOSE: To expand access to affordable and high-quality early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides those located on Department of Education public school campuses.

MEANS: Amends sections 302A-1151.5, 302D-35, 302L-1.7, and 302L-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: Research affirms the immediate and long-term positive effects of high-quality early learning programs on the physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional outcomes of children. Studies also demonstrate that high-quality early learning programs are especially effective for at-risk children, yielding significant benefits to their lifetime trajectories. Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, demonstrated the State's commitment to increase access to early learning programs by charging the Executive Office on Early Learning and the Department of Human Services with ensuring all three and four-year olds have access to prekindergarten by 2032. However, access and affordability continue to be a significant barrier for Hawaii's families. Despite efforts to keep rates low, private early learning providers are operating on razor-thin margins. Presently, section 302L-1.7, HRS, authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning to administer a pre-plus program through public-private partnerships for children from families with low-incomes on Department of Education public school campuses. The amendments to this section would amend the name of the pre-plus program to early learning program in order to expand access to affordable

# SB. NO. 3087

early learning programs through private-public partnerships and broaden the program to be administered on other state properties besides the Department of Education public school campuses, opening more affordable opportunities for families to access an array of early learning programs. The amendments to sections 302A-1151.5, 302D-35, and 302L-7 amend the references to the pre-plus program to align with amendments made in section 302L-1.7, HRS.

Impact on the public: Expands access to the public to affordable early learning programs.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Agencies would have the ability to establish early learning programs on state properties and public lands in collaboration with the Executive Office on Early Learning.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM  
DESIGNATION: None.

OTHER AFFECTED  
AGENCIES: All agencies that oversee state properties or public lands.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.