

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ELAINE YAMASHITA
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII'

Early Learning Board

2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII'1 96826

February 18, 2025

To: Representative Yamashita, Chair
Representative Takenouchi Vice-chair
Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Elaine Yamashita, Chair
Early Learning Board

Re: HB 1065 HD1 support

Honorable Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the committee:

The Early Learning Board (ELB) formulates statewide policy relating to early learning, as well as directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL).

The Early Learning Board supports HB 1065 HD1.

This is essentially a housekeeping bill that will clean up the statute. The stated proposed language clarifies where any repaid stipend funds would be deposited. The early learning special fund has already been established.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Elaine Yamashita
Early Learning Board Chair
elb@eoel.hawaii.gov



STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'aina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 1065, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATOR SPECIAL FUND

Committee: FIN
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 308

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **SUPPORT**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments in strong support of H.B. No. 1065, H.D. 1, a housekeeping measure to clean up statutory language related to the Early Childhood Educator Special Fund. This measure does not contain an appropriation and has no significant fiscal impact.

Act 210, SLH 2021 established the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program to address the shortage of qualified early childhood educators in Hawai'i. The Act specified that recipients of the stipends who do not satisfy the requirements of the program must repay the stipend funds. It added a new section to HRS, establishing the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Special Fund, into which any repaid stipend funds were to be deposited. However, Act 210 also specified that the special fund shall be abolished and repealed on June 30, 2023. As a result, the fund was abolished in 2023 and is no longer in use.

This bill deletes section 302L-10, HRS which established the Early Childhood Educator Special Fund, and redirects any stipend funds repaid by a stipend recipient to the Early Learning Special Fund instead.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued investment in our youngest keiki and their families and thank you for your consideration of H.B. No. 1065, H.D. 1.

HB-1065-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:04:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Bautista	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a stay at home mom, former public servant, and a mom to a toddler. As I think about my daughter's school choices, it stresses me out. As a resident who takes public transportation, I have limited options of school availability but most importantly affordability.

I kindly ask you pass HB1065 HD1.

Thank you,

April

April Kamilah Bagasao Bautista