



**STATE OF HAWAII**

**Early Learning Board**

2759 South King Street, Room C6  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 11, 2025

To: Representative Woodson, Chair  
Representative La Chica, Vice-chair  
Members of the Education Committee

Representative Hagan, Chair  
Representative Hussey, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Economic Development Committee

From: Elaine Yamashita, Chair  
Early Learning Board

Re: HB 1065 support

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, Chair Hagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committees:

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.

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.

I would have testified also via Zoom, but our regular board meeting is at the same time.

Mahalo for your understanding and consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Elaine Yamashita  
Early Learning Board Chair  
[elb@eoel.hawaii.gov](mailto: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 Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

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

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

**Committee:** EDN  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2025  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Conference Room 309

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, a housekeeping measure to clean up statutory language related to the Early Childhood Educator Special Fund.

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.