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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

March 20, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 239 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill, provides comments, requests clarification, and suggests clarifying amendments. DHS also requests an extended effective date. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill requires the Department of Human Services to establish a child care accreditation program to assist licensed and registered child care providers obtain accreditation. Authorizes the use of the child care grant program special fund for child care accreditation program grants. Amends the time period for when existing preschool open doors service providers are required to obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds for the child care accreditation program, including for the establishment of one full-time position for the program. Appropriates funds into and out of the child care grant special fund. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1).

The SD1 amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the Child Care Accreditation Program shall be established within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program Office;
- (2) Expanding the accrediting entity to organizations approved by the Director of Human Services;
- (3) Inserting a definition for "eligible child care provider" to mean a child care facility that is not part of or owned or operated by a private educational institution; provided that an organization or individual that owns or operates both a private educational institution and a child care facility may be deemed an "eligible child care provider" if the organization or individual can provide evidence that the operations and finances of the private educational institution are completely separate from the operations and finances of the child care facility so that it is clear that a child care grant would not support or benefit the private educational institution in violation of article X, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution;
- (4) Allowing the funds appropriated for the Child Care Accreditation Program to be used to fund the annual accreditation fees incurred by eligible child care providers participating in the Preschool Open Doors program; inserting language establishing standards for the distribution of the funds appropriated in this measure as grants under the child care accreditation program;
- (5) Amending section 1 to reflect its amended purpose;
- (6) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 further amended the measure by:

- (1) Authorizing the Child Care Accreditation Program to award grant funding to a child care provider that has committed to obtaining accreditation from an accrediting organization approved by the Director of Human Services;
- (2) Adding a new section to appropriate funds out of the child care grant program special fund for the purposes of the child care grant program; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Clarifying the circumstances in which an individual or organization that owns or operates both a private educational institution and child care facility may apply for a child care accreditation program grant;
- (2) Amending the child care grant program special fund to allow for the use of the fund to award child care accreditation program grants;
- (3) Changing the time frame by which an existing POD service provider must begin and complete the accreditation process to an unspecified date;

- (4) Appropriating an unspecified amount of funds out of the child care grant program special fund for child care accreditation program grants;
- (5) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department respectfully requests clarification on *upfront grant funding to cover the cost of accreditation* by one of the national early learning accrediting organizations, as identified in section 346-184(b) or as approved by the director, and whether the "cost of accreditation" includes accreditation fees plus any incidentals such as but not limited to expenses for furniture, equipment, or minor renovations.

The Department also requests clarification if child care providers seeking renewal of their accreditation from appropriate bodies would be eligible for the upfront grant funding to cover the cost of accreditation and grant funding for technical assistance.

DHS respectfully requests the following **amendments** to clarify the types of licensed and registered child care settings that the accreditation program would be available to:

- Section 2, page 2, lines 20-21 to page 3, lines 1-2,

"(3) Be available to licensed **group** child care centers **and homes**, licensed infant and toddler centers, **and** registered family child care homes care homes."

DHS supports family choice and offers higher child care subsidy payment rates to families that choose child care providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation, and National Association for Family Child Care Accreditation. In addition, higher subsidies are available for the Preschool Open Doors program and the federally funded Child Care Connection Hawaii programs.

DHS agrees with the extended time frames in section 4 as extending the time to become accredited will give new child care workforce initiatives time to increase capacity and allows eligible facilities ready to access accreditation resources more time to do so in a less pressured time frame. However, given the continuing economic impacts of COVID-19 on child care facilities' ability to maintain sufficient staff levels, DHS suggests the Legislature consider amending section 346-184(a), HRS, to change the accreditation requirement to be voluntary until the child care workforce is more stabilized or subsidized.

The Department also recommends that the sums appropriated to award grants to eligible private child care providers participating in the child care accreditation program include the costs for providers with annual accreditation fees and a one-time system modification fee.

DHS is investigating the costs for licensed providers to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Early Childhood Program (NECPA), and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) and will provide cost estimates. We estimate that approximately 24% of group child care centers are accredited and informed that accreditation takes approximately one year to complete.

The average cost for the initial fees to obtain NAEYC accredited status is \$4,155, and fees for initial NECPA accredited status are \$2,331. These costs vary depending on the licensed capacity of the group child care center. These fees are the accrediting organization's fees for processing and assessing an applying group child care center's request for accreditation.

Notably, these accreditation fees do not include additional costs that a group child care center may incur to meet the accrediting organization's standards. Once accredited, both organizations have annual fees to maintain their accreditation. A general fund appropriation will be required to support the proposed grant program, as federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds may be accessed by reimbursement of specific accreditation fees.

As the session continues, DHS will provide additional cost estimates to contract an entity to establish, implement, and administer the child care accreditation program, including funding for one full-time equivalent position. In addition, once the Legislature appropriates funds, DHS will need time to develop and implement administrative rules and make system modifications.

If the measure passes, DHS would need time to develop standards, policies, application forms, and procedures for administering the child care accreditation program. Additionally, DHS must make program and system changes and develop administrative processes and rules to establish and implement the program. Therefore, DHS respectfully requests an effective date of January 31, 2024, or later.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



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

March 21, 2023

**TO:** Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

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

**SUBJECT: Measure:** S.B. No. 329 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION  
**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Location:** Conference Room 329

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

EOEL supports S.B. No. 239 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 and defers to the Department of Human Services regarding implementation.

This bill would establish a child care accreditation program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization and by paying for fees, technical assistance, and incidental costs.

Accreditation is one well-known measure of quality in early childhood education programming. However, obtaining accreditation can be costly and time-consuming for providers, many who are still recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Establishing this program with adequate appropriations would help support more providers in achieving and maintaining accreditation.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to support high-quality early learning programs and services in the State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Representative Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Sayama, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: SB239 SD2 HD1, relating to early learning accreditation  
2:00 p.m., March 22, 2023

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama 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 239 SD2 HD1, relating to early learning accreditation and respectfully ask for an amendment.**

Early learning programs often use accreditation as one tool to mark quality. Unfortunately, **accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming.** For example, fees to begin and complete accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) begin at \$1,825 and increase with the size of the preschool. Many preschools and child care providers also seek technical assistance to identify areas needing improvement, complete necessary paperwork, collect documentation and other tasks to ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible. During preparations for accreditation, it is common for preschools and child care providers to identify upgrades that need to be made to buildings, classrooms, furniture or play equipment. These too cost money. Once a preschool or child care provider successfully achieves accreditation, they then must pay annual fees to maintain it. **All these reasons compound to make it extremely burdensome for many child care providers, especially small centers and family child care homes, to pursue accreditation.**

H.R.S. §346-184 currently requires existing Preschool Open Doors providers to begin the accreditation process by July 1, 2024 and obtain accreditation by July 1, 2029. New providers must have or obtain accreditation within seven calendar years of first receiving funds. **This means that unaccredited providers who are already serving Preschool Open Doors families must begin this expensive and intensive process within the next 18 months.**

This requirement places a heavy burden on an already taxed early childhood care and education sector in a very short amount of time. **They cannot afford to carry more costs on their own; they need assistance and more time to begin and complete the accreditation the process.**

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

SB239 will help providers shoulder the cost of achieving accreditation. The bill, as it is currently written, allows the Department of Human Services to support providers with funding that can cover myriad expenses associated with the accreditation process. **It is important that the Department has this flexibility to support providers in the various ways necessary.**

We respectfully ask the committee **amend this measure to include the deadlines for accreditation as written in the original draft of the bill.** The following amended deadlines have received support from early childhood education community members.

SECTION 4. Section 346-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) Each service provider of the preschool open doors program shall be accredited or shall obtain accreditation within seven calendar years of first receiving any funds from the preschool open doors program; provided that any existing service provider unaccredited on July 1, 2022, shall commence the accreditation process no later than July 1, [~~2024~~] 2029, and obtain accreditation by July 1, [~~2029~~] 2034; provided further that the director may grant to any service provider one or more extensions to obtain accreditation on a case-by-case basis."

**Please support SB239 SD2 HD1. This program will ensure providers of all sizes meet the quality markers our young children and their families deserve while preserving the current stock of available providers participating in Preschool Open Doors.**

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



TO: The Honorable Mark Nakashima, Chair  
The Honorable Jackson Sayama, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Philip Bossert, Executive Director  
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools

RE: **SB 239 SD2 HD1 - Relating to Early Learning Accreditation  
In Strong Support**

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
2:00 p.m.; Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) and its subsidiary, the Hawaii Council of Private Schools (HCPS), strongly supports SB 239 SD2 HD1. Increasing funding for early childhood education is important along with accreditation standards for those institutions.

HAIS strongly supports the expansion of types of organizations from which Open Doors service providers may obtain accreditation. In particular, we believe that accreditation by HAIS should be recognized by DHS as an authorized accrediting organization for the Open Doors program. HAIS currently serves 114 independent PK-12 schools and over 33,000 students in Hawai'i. More than 50 of these schools include preschool programs.

In 1996, the legislature transferred responsibility for the licensing of private schools to HAIS and its subsidiary, HCPS. This licensing process ensures on an annual basis that every PK-12 private school is in compliance with the health and safety requirements of all federal and state agencies. In addition, for those schools which seek a higher level of educational program verification and recognition, the HAIS accreditation process provides a much more rigorous protocol of compliance and review, one that is recognized and accepted by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The HAIS accreditation protocol includes a comprehensive self-study process and a three to five-day visit to the school by a team of educators from other private schools in Hawaii and California with comparable programs to verify the information provided in the self-study document. We believe that this protocol and process is in line with those of the accrediting agencies already on the approved list.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Date: March 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for SB239 SD2 HD1, Relating to Early Learning Accreditation**

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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 SB239 SD2 HD1**, which would establish a program to support child care providers in obtaining quality accreditation from a national organization and extend the deadline by which Preschool Open Doors providers must achieve accreditation.

With the passage of Act 46 in 2020, early care and learning programs wishing to serve or continue serving children via the state's Preschool Open Doors subsidy program must initiate the process of national quality accreditation by 2024, and achieve accreditation no later than 2029.

Accreditation is a well-known measure of quality for early care and learning programs, and involves an arduous cycle of self- and external assessment to meet a battery of standards related to curriculum, staff and administrative qualifications, training and development, physical environment and more. Accreditation, however, is an expensive, intensive, and time-consuming endeavor for both programs new to the process, as well as those seeking to renew their time-limited accreditation. Basic fees to undergo the process with an accrediting body typically run into the thousands (e.g., \$1,825 for the National Association for the Education of Young Children/NAEYC) and providers must often make significant financial investments to upgrade their facilities, classroom environments, equipment and materials. Additionally, many programs need the support of coaching and technical assistance from content and process experts who can advise on areas needing improvement to meet standards, as well as the documentation and paperwork processes of the accrediting body.

Without a support program for our preschool and child care programs, the accreditation requirement of Act 46 creates a significant barrier and/or burden for these programs in serving Preschool Open Doors families and will significantly impact efforts to expand access to publicly-supported preschool opportunities for children. The creation of the accreditation program proposed by **SB239 SD2 HD1**, which would provide technical and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers, is critical to helping programs achieve important markers of quality and to preserving and expanding the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Additionally, given the tenuous state of child care programs and workforce capacity, we support considerations to either change Preschool Open Doors accreditation requirements to be voluntary, until workforce conditions are more stable, or extend the timeframes by which programs must become accredited, as proposed by this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB239 SD2 HD1**.



SB239  
Relating to Early Learning  
Accreditation

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports SB239 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, **accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously.** As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alec Marentic, Ed.S., NCSP  
*HASP President*

**SB-239-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:41:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB239 SD2 HD1. Please support SB239 SD2 HD1.

**SB-239-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:27:25 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elento	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Nakashima, Chair, Rep. Sayama, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

Our keiki, families, childcare providers and preschools need less regulations, less paperwork, not more. **Oppose SB239 SD2 HD1.**

I believe some standards of a "national early learning accreditation", such as NAEYC, specified in our statutes, may directly conflict with a provider's and child's religious freedom and First Amendment rights. Families need fair access to faith-based providers holding the Association of Christian Schools Internationalo (ACSI) accreditation.

Requiring a service provider to seek accreditation from a "national early learning accrediting organization" would disqualify some private schools and childcare providers solely because they are religious, as there may be an accreditation standard in conflict with their faith or religion. Refer to the US Supreme Court's decision issued on June 21, 2022, in Carson v. Makin: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1088\\_dbfi.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-1088_dbfi.pdf).

The director of human services is limited to approving a "national early learning accrediting organization", a decision that is subjective and could change, an unfair provision. If ACSI is not considered a "national early learning accrediting organization", then the director is not able to approve ACSI as this statute is written.

I do not believe DHS recognizes ACSI as a "national early learning accrediting organization" because schools without NAEYC (or an accreditation listed in statute) do not qualify for the 100% highest-level scale for subsidy payments but only for about 75% maximum. The providers with only ACSI (WASC, HAIS) accreditation should also be at the 100% level, not 75%, effective immediately, and the providers not be subject to losing all eligibilty for Preschool Open Doors and childcare subsidies on a deadline set for years ahead.

This bill should add ACSI to the list of accreditations for pre-K, as the statutes include ACSI in defining private schools for K-12 only. Other testimonies are seeking later implementation dates; providers need assurance now that their accreditation that meets or exceeds the named national learning accreditations, not next year; planning and uncertainty are additionally stressing.

**Delete the accreditation mandate instead or add ACSI.**

I am a parent and grandparent and a thankful consumer of preschools and childcare providers for over the past 25 years. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **Opposition of SB239 SD2 HD1.**

March 21, 2023

To: Representative Mark Nakashima, Chair  
Representative Jackson Sayama, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Subject: **Measure** – SB 239 SD2 HD1 TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION  
**Hearing Date** – March 22, 2023  
**Time** - 2:00 PM  
**Location** - Room 329

**This testimony is in support of SB239 SD2 HD1.**

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) College of Education (COE) and serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity (ECE<sup>3</sup>) Project.

I am in support of SB239 SD2 HD1 which will support licensed preschools and regulated child care providers achieve program accreditation and preserve the number of quality preschools and child care programs available for Preschool Open Doors families.

Research shows a direct correlation between high-quality early learning and children's positive long-term outcomes in life, including increased educational attainment, healthier lifestyles, and more successful careers.

For many years, I provided DHS licensed preschools with technical assistance and coaching to improve the quality of their program through a national early learning accreditation organization. I found one of the important benefits of accreditation is how teachers and other staff of early learning programs develop a shared understanding and commitment to quality. The accreditation process leads to increased staff morale, greater staff retention, and a more positive and energetic work atmosphere overall. However, going through the accreditation process can be expensive, time consuming and difficult for preschools and family child care providers to complete.

Therefore, SB239 SD2 HD1 states that programs wishing to serve Preschool Open Doors families shall be accredited by a nationally known entity approved by the director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). SB239 SD2 HD1 establishes a child care accreditation program in the DHS to provide operational and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers seeking accreditation through a child care grant program with funds out of the child care grant program special fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB239 SD2 HD1.

**SB-239-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:25:09 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[SB239 SD2 HD1](#) establishes a program to support child care providers by paying for fees, technical assistance and incidental costs to achieve accreditation.

- ✔ Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education.
- ✔ As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029.
- ✔ This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

I support SB239.

--Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawii

**SB-239-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:29:17 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leslie Baunach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee:

Please support SB239 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. My mother was a daycare provider in Oregon for over 30 years and accreditation helped families to know she was regulated and kept up to date with child protection laws. Hawai'i's keiki deserve the same.

Please support this measure.

**SB-239-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 2:36:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raya Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and committee members,

Please support SB 239 HD1, which will help preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and safeguard the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors (POD) families. Accreditation is one of the most recognized measures of quality in early childhood care and education. However, accreditation is costly, rigorous, and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously and for those who have to repeat the accreditation process. The bottomline is that many preschools and child care providers are tapped out of money and energy to begin and complete the accreditation that will soon be required to continue serving POD families. Additionally, without the support and guidance of an accreditation program, this requirement stalls efforts to increase the number of programs available. The creation of an accreditation program is an essential step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to POD families. As a young, middle-class woman hoping to start a family soon in Honolulu, it is my sincere hope that affordable, high-quality childcare programs will be available to my future children. Ensuring that programs serving POD families get the support they need to gain accreditation is a huge step in the right direction. Please support this measure—for the present and future families who seek the quality child care that their keiki deserve.

Sincerely,

Raya Esteban

**SB-239-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 8:31:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Tochiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are members of the Hawaii Childrens Action Network. Quality child care is critical to the health and well being of our children and our future.