

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



ELAINE YAMASHITA  
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Early Learning Board**  
2759 South King Street, Room C6  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 20, 2025

To: Representative Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Poepoe, Vice-chair  
Members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Elaine Yamashita, Chair  
Early Learning Board

Re: HB 1066 HD1 support

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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 1066 HD1, as adding the Head Start state collaboration office director and the president of the Head Start Association will bring the board into compliance with the Head Start Act, Section 642B. ELB is the designated "State Advisory Council" that has evolved over the years to become the Early Learning Board.

Mahalo for your 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'1 96826

**TO:** Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

**SUBJECT:** Testimony on H.B. No. 1066, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD  
Committee: JHA  
Date: Friday, February 21, 2025  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Conference Room 325

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. 1066, H.D. 1.

Last year, it was brought to EOEL's attention that the Early Learning Board must comply with certain requirements of the Federal Head Start Act because the Early Learning Board was previously designated to serve as Hawaii's State Advisory Council for the purposes of the Head Start Act.

Act 170, SLH 2023 restructured the composition of the Early Learning Board. Although the new board composition addresses most of the requirements of the Head Start Act, there are a few discrepancies that need to be resolved. The purpose of this measure is to add representatives of Head Start to the Early Learning Board to bring our State's Advisory Council into compliance with the Federal Head Start Act. It makes the following changes to the composition of the board:

- Adds the State Director of Head Start Collaboration as an Ex officio member; and
- Invites the President of the Head Association of Hawaii, or the president's designee, to serve as an ex-officio member.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued investment in our youngest keiki and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments in strong support of H.B. No. 1066, H.D. 1.