



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 1066 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 1066, 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.

After the bill was submitted, the board realized one more change needs to be made. The ELB respectfully requests that at the end of Section 1, this line be added: "The board shall invite a representative of the local early childhood education and development services to serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the board if no voting member fills that role."

This language would assure that a "representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services" is a board member. The current voting board (all appointed in 2024) includes a preschool director, so the board is currently in compliance in this regard. The language assures that either a voting or an ex-officio board member fulfills the role.

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



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. 1066 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD
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. 1066 and respectfully requests your consideration of an amendment to the bill.

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.

In addition to requiring Head Start representation on our State's Advisory Council, the Head Start Act requires that the board include a representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services. The membership of our current board includes an individual who satisfies this requirement. However, EOEL recommends that the bill be amended to ensure that this requirement is not accidentally overlooked in future years. We respectfully request that the following language be added to section 302L-1.6, HRS:

"The board shall invite a representative of local providers of early childhood education and development services to serve as an ex-officio non-voting member if no voting member fills that role."

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.