

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



ELAINE YAMASHITA  
CHAIRPERSON

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

March 8, 2025

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

From: Elaine Yamashita, Chair  
Early Learning Board

Re: SB423 SD1 support

Honorable Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, 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 SB 423 SD1, 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. This version also adds a representative of the local providers of early childhood education and development services as ex officio if no voting member fills that role.

Adding these provisions will assure that ELB is in compliance with the Head Start Act.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill and proposed amendments.

Respectfully,

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'āina  
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 S.B. No. 423, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD

Committee: EDN  
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 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 S.B. No. 423, S.D. 1, and respectfully requests that the bill be amended to be effective upon approval.

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 due to its previous designation as Hawai'i's State Advisory Council for the purposes of the Head Start Act. In 2023, Act 170 restructured the composition of the Early Learning Board and the new structure addressed most of the requirements of the Head Start Act, but not all. The purpose of this measure is to bring the Early Learning Board into compliance with the Federal Head Start Act.

The bill as originally introduced 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. At the request of the EOEL and the Early Learning Board,

the Senate added the following language to Section 302L-1.6, HRS to explicitly address this requirement:

"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 fulfills this role."

The membership of our current board includes an individual who satisfies this requirement. However, the additional statutory language in the S.D. 1 will ensure that this requirement is not accidentally overlooked in future years.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued investment in our youngest keiki and their families and thank you for the opportunity to share these comments in strong support of S.B. No. 423, S.D. 1.