



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

March 12, 2019

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair, Lower Education
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair, Higher Education
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 967, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION.
Hearing Date: March 14, 2019
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Bill Description: Authorizes the state public charter school commission to establish and fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support the Intent

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the intent of S.B. 967, S.D. 1.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition of the need to increase access to high-quality early learning. We fully support the Commission's request for funding to sustain its 18 pre-K classrooms across the state. EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children. The charter pre-K classrooms are included in our proposal to increase access to prekindergarten for our keiki – they provide an important option that addresses family choice and provides opportunities in areas that do not have pre-K programs. If the Commission is not able to sustain their currently-operating classrooms, it will be to the detriment of the community.

In its implementation of the 18 pre-K classrooms, the Commission aligns curriculum and assessments to the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, and works toward achieving the quality standards of the National Institute for Early Education Research, as EOEL does for the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program. We believe the Commission is committed to working with EOEL toward ensuring a high-quality pre-K program for our keiki.

We defer to the Commission regarding the other merits of the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

To: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair, Lower Education
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair, Higher Education
Members of the House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** S.B. No. 967, S.D. 1 – Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
Hearing Date: March 14, 2019
Time: 2:30 pm
Location: Room 309

Description: Authorizes the state public charter school commission to establish and fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050

Early Learning Board Position: Support

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB) which is the governing board for the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support S.B. No. 967, S.D. 1 on behalf of the Early Learning Board.

The ELB supports the S.B. No. 967, S.D. 1 appropriation request to continue the 18 charter school classrooms developed with funding from the Federal Preschool Development Grant, received by the Charter School Commission in 2015. 2019 marks the completion of the grant and this appropriation would sustain the quality early learning program opportunities for 360 children across our State.

Knowing the impact that quality learning experiences in pre-K have, particularly upon low income and at-risk children and their families, the ELB believes it is incumbent upon our State to continue the excellent work begun with the Federal start-up funds. The Charter School Commission reports gains on many fronts for the pre-K participants: cognitive, social emotional and physical development as well as language, literacy and math. These are the kinds of positive outcomes that pre-K experience offers our keiki and we don't wish to lose them.

As the governing board for the EOEL, we would like to affirm that charter pre-K classrooms are included in plans to increase access to families, particularly in areas lacking such opportunities, to ensure choice options. In addition, EOEL is committed to working with the Charter Commission to provide high-quality pre-K programs for Hawaii's keiki.

The ELB respectfully requests that the Committee move this bill forward. Thank you again for your consideration and the opportunity to offer testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



JOHN S.S. KIM
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB 967 SD1 Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
DATE: March 14, 2019
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower & Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perusso, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony to **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 967 SD1**, which authorizes the Commission to establish and fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms.

The Commission is grateful for the support of public charter schools and early childhood education that this committee is providing through this measure. At this time, the Commission’s efforts are focused on sustaining the existing 18 pre-kindergarten classrooms currently funded through the Federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG), which sunsets June 30, 2019. To sustain the existing classrooms, the funding requested would be \$4 million per fiscal year.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with this committee, the Executive Office on Early Learning, and the Department of Education in sustaining the current classrooms and considering the expansion of early childhood education programs in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 967, S.D. 1

March 14, 2019
2:30 p.m.
Room 309

RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Senate Bill No. 967, S.D. 1, authorizes the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) to establish and fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms and appropriates an undetermined amount in FY 20.

The Department of Budget and Finance notes that the measure does not provide details on the funding level for the classes or how the funding will be determined. Funding for K-12 classes are based on an equivalent per pupil funding amount provided to the Department of Education schools.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
Kualapu'u School
Public Conversion Charter
P O Box 260
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6908

FOR: SB 967 Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
DATE: March 14, 2019
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower & Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Lydia Trinidad, Principal
Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School
Molokai, Hawaii

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

Kualapu`u Public Conversion Charter School on the island of Molokai appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **SB 967**.

SB 967 will allow the executive office on early learning to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Hawaii state public charter school commission to administer the charter school prekindergarten classrooms. This will sustain the 18 high quality prekindergarten programs in charter schools currently funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant beginning school year 2018-2019.

Pre K has made a positive impact on the lives for our Molokai keiki .

Pre K at Kualapu`u PCCS had made a positive impact on the lives for our keiki, `ohana and school community. Sustaining the existing PK classrooms that are in place at will ensure that an additional 18 students per year will continue to have access to high quality learning. PK gives our keiki the step up that they need to have a strong foundation in education, while supporting the overall success of the P-12 learning continuum. I have attached testimony from parents whose children have had a strong learning foundation by attending our public pre-school. Many parents wish to have this opportunity continued for their other children.

Thank you for your support and consideration of SB 967.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lydia Trinidad', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Lydia Trinidad
Principal

Attachments—10 Parent Support letters

Preeschool is important because it allows my daughter to interact with other students. She is able to ^{learn how} get along ~~with~~ and make friends. My daughter will also be able to get a head start and learn a lot at this age. It is important because it prepares you for kindergarten. I ~~am~~ have ^{attended} ~~been to~~ preschool when I was a little girl and my experiences were great. I only hope ~~to~~ for my daughter to experience the same thing I have.

Michal Tones-Umi-Blair

1-31-19

Aloha to whom it may concern,
My eldest is nine and
he attended Pre-K @ Kualapuu
in 2014 and it was the best start
he could've experienced. He was shy
in the beginning but by 3 weeks in
he never wanted to miss a day!
It's so important for our
keiki and an awesome start
to their educational journey.

Thank you,

Ashley Bradford
808 688 6835

Preschool is important with the transitioning to Kindergarten. It makes it easier for my child to stay in school without any fuss. Also learning to get along with other children. Another thing my old children learned to write their names letters & number which helps them to start learning to read & do math at their age level

J. M. P. M.

~~As a~~ As a preschool parent with my second child enrolling this year at Kualapuu school. I have seen first hand the benefits that Pre-K has on my child. The transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten has been great for both me and my child. I hope that this program can continue to be a benefit to other parents and of course my third child in the future.

Asfani Atina

9
Rander Akapo

Early childhood education is very important to every child's development. As a former teacher, I strongly believe this. A young child's brain is growing + developing at a rapid rate, and they need a strong foundation!

Becky Takashima,
grandparent

It's important to have a preschool program at Kualapuu School to start fostering education in our keiki. It helps to form the foundation for children as they learn development skills both fine and gross motor as well as behavioral skills for interacting with other children.

Brianne Childs

Jan. 31st, 2

To whom it may concern,

I am the mother of Camila-Ailani and I am writing this letter to tell you how important preschool is for my children. First of all it is what helps them to learn their social skills and learn to work well with other children their age. As they transition into Kindergarten and so forth it is important to me that my daughter learns the importance of all this that goes on in elementary.

Sincerely, Caitlyn Albino-Raper

Preschool is important to my child because it gives him the introduction to school at a slow pace, but also having him get used to the school that he will be attending in Kindergarten. Preschool plays a vital role in my child's development, and he is looking forward to attending the same school as his sister and cousins. My child comes to Kualapuu almost every morning and is already used to this school and I would hate to send him to another school. Thank you for this opportunity.

Jasmine Kan-Hai
(808) 336-0092

Aloha,

My name is John Ianchett. I am a native Hawaiian from the island of Molokai and want to attest to the value of Molokai's Kualapuu school Pre-K program. My son Ikuu Ianchett attended in 2013 and gained invaluable skills. His reading, writing, and math skills in my opinion, social skills were significantly improved. I am very pleased with the results and support the continuation of any and all early education programs.

Thank you,

John Ikuu Ianchett

(808) 658-9941 ikua1ua2@yahoo.co

To whom it may concern,

I am the mother of Kaylee-Pose Tamaraha. This Pre-Kindergarten program is important to me and for my daughter because I think it's very good for her to learn social skills and education is so important. My two sons Keston Tai who's 5th grade now and Mason Tama who's 3rd grade also attended the program loved it. I'm so excited of this program and can't wait for my daughter to grow from this program.

Lilynn Tamaraha



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Date: March 14, 2019

Where: Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona

RE: SB 967, SD1, Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission

E ka Luna Ho‘omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Hashem, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Perruso, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao Ha‘aha‘a, Ki‘eki‘e, a me ke Kulanui o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, the Managing Director of Kūamahi Community Education.

Kamehameha Schools is in **support** of SB 967, SD1, which proposes to authorize the State Public Charter School Commission to establish and fund charter school pre-kindergarten classrooms and make appropriations.

In Hawai‘i, the greatest inequity in education occurs even before a keiki starts kindergarten with a shortage of availability and access to early learning opportunities. Research shows us that more than eighty-five percent of brain development occurs from the time of birth to the age of five. Quality early learning provides a strong foundation for keiki beyond academic benefits and has positive impacts on parents, caregivers, and all of Hawai‘i nei.

These eighteen public charter school prekindergarten classrooms serve a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students and continue to show positive growth in developmental and educational areas. Public prekindergarten provides an important opportunity for all of our keiki to enter kindergarten well prepared for their lifelong educational journey. This measure allows the State Charter Commission to continue to serve 360 four-year-olds across Hawai‘i.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. No task is too large when we all work together! **Please advance this measure.**

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:44:26 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susan Osborne | Kua O Ka La NCPCS | Support | No |

Comments:

Kua O Ka La Charter School has established a pre K program in collaboration with the Commission. This has been so very positive for our families and our community which is economically disadvantaged.

The research is clear about K readiness and the long term educational success of students that attend a pre K program, especially in areas such as Puna. Our Pre K continues to be in Puna. Our community has been hit so hard with the devastating impacts from the Kilauea eruption. Providing this consistency and opportunity to continue the Pre K program at our beautiful facility would be very important at this time.

We appreciate the Governors focus on establishing Pre K programs in the state and we have 17 now fully developed Pre K programs that just need continued funding, not development funding. These programs will not be able to continue without the passage of this bill with funding support.

Please support this important bill!

Mahalo

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:07:51 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Danielle Hewetson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Preschool is such an important thing in a young child's life. The peer and adult connections can impact their entire life and ALL the children in Hawai'i should have access to preschool no matter if it is a public or charter school. We need to give our keiki the best start in life!

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:25:03 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anna Puaoi Nip | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am an Early Childhood Educator and I have personally seen the difference with children who complete an ECE program and those who don't. I strongly believe that children who come out of an ECE program such as Preschool are more Socially connected to peers and adults, they obtain more information and they have supportive parents who stay with them thru out their school journey. When there is Parent Support children flourish and succeed and that is what we need more of these days.

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:13:24 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Koalani Lagareta | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB967. As an ECE educator and a single parent of 2 I have experienced first hand the benefits of high quality preK programs. I taught kindergarten for many years and the children who came in with even 6 months of previous preschool experience showed more school readiness, eagerness to learn, and social-emotional skills. Both of my children attended preschool programs with state funded assistance, which allowed me to go back to work and school. Without this opportunity I would not have been able to financially make ends meet or earn my graduate degree.

All of Hawaii's children deserve equal opportunity to to attend affordable, high quality, public preK programs such as those currently being offered at charter schools around the state. All of Hawaii's families deserve to be able to choose high quality education for their children so they may pursue avenues to financial security and economic independence. SB967 provides these opportunities.

Please vote to pass SB967 and fund Hawaii's preK charter school programs!

Mahalo,

Koalani Lagareta

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:31:36 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leila Kealoha | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to ask for your support in continuing to fund pre-K programs for our charter schools. I have been given the opportunity for my son to attend a pre-K charter school and appreciate that this program has been available to us. Please continue to support these programs for our Keiki! Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 12:46:08 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Tracy H. Jardine | laupahoehoe Community PCS | Support | No |

Comments:

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 967**.

LCPCS was fortunate enough to be included in the four-year Pre-K Development Grant. During this time, we have served about 70 Pre-K students and families that live in our community and surrounding areas.

Because we live in a rural area the advantages of offering a pre-k program to our community are vital. Our Pre-K program offers the school a chance to screen these students and make individual accommodations so all children, including those with special needs, can access and participate fully in learning activities.

We have seen tremendous benefits for those students that have attended our pre-k program that are entering kindergarten.

Please make the right choice for our Keiki and all the Keiki across Hawaii and help us to sustain our pre-k program.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tracy H. Jardine, LCPCS Manager

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:01:14 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lakota Sorensen | Wai'ālae™ alae Elementary Public Charter School | Support | No |

Comments:

FROM: Lakota Sorensen, Cosmetologist/Wedding hair design
Wai'ālae Elementary Public Charter School,

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

Wai'ālae Elementary Public Charter School, appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in SUPPORT of SB 967.

Having been granted this tremendous opportunity for my daughter to have a solid early education, I have been able to return to work full time since becoming a single mother. When I got divorced, I had struggled to find decent childcare that was affordable, with high learning standards. It was nearly impossible to find. This has been the biggest blessing and something SO very important for both my daughter, and myself. The value in this pre-k program is intangible and irreplaceable. I need to work to provide for my family, and my daughter needs a safe space that I can trust she can gain valuable and necessary information to help guide her through these crucially formative years. I am beyond grateful something like this exists and I'm hoping continues to exist for future generations. I have seen such a difference in my daughter's every day demeanor, manners, and overall mood. She's a happier, more knowledgeable kid since being enrolled in Wai'ālae Elementary preschool program and I'm so very grateful! Please keep this early learning program alive! Not only for the sake of the children, the

struggling single parents, but it's extremely beneficial for all parents with this quality of education. It has been my saving grace.

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:39:45 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeffrey Mermel | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in SUPPORT of SB 967 SD1. The Pre-K class at my local public charter school is very popular with the parents and there is a waiting list.

It is well documented that pre-kindergarten education serves the child well all through life.

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:47:08 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kalima Cayir | Volcano School of Arts & Sciences | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Representative Woodson and LHE Committee members,

We urge you to approve funding to sustain the PreKindergarten programs. Options for preschool in our area are extremely limited. Without our PreK program, families either have to drive long distances and pay expensive fees or elect not to send their children to preschool, which leaves most of the children in our community without an early education experience. Research is clear on the value and necessity of Early Childhood Education, and our program at The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences provides a much-needed, high quality opportunity for children in the communities we serve. Please approve this funding so that we can keep our doors open! Mahalo for your time and consideration, and for your dedication to improving education in our state.

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 1:57:24 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sally Mermel | Volcano Community Association | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha from Sally Mermel,

I am in full support of this bill.

As a former teacher and now retired businesswoman I know the importance of preschools in the education of our keiki. It is needed by our communities and families.

The 18 classrooms in public charter preschools are highly successful and are popular with our communities and the families in the communities they serve.

In our own community of Volcano there is a waiting list to be admitted.

Please pass this bill for the good of all families in Hawaii. My own, now adult and successful children attended preschool and I attest to their success by having access to a good preschool when they were young.

Let's support our public charter school preschools and those 18 classrooms!

With my sincere appreciation for the vision we all share!

Sally Mermel

Volcano Hawaii

FOR: SB 967 Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
DATE: March 14, 2019
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower & Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: Caitlin Kryss, Pre-K teacher, Na Wai Ola PCS

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

Na Wai Ola Public Charter School appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 967**.

My name is Caitlin Kryss, and I am a Pre-K teacher at Na Wai Ola Public Charter School in Mountain View, Hawaii. Our Pre-K program was created by the federal Preschool Development Grant (PDG), and since the program's inception, we have seen countless benefits to our students and to their families, including health and developmental screenings for keiki, family engagement events, and high-quality educational experiences for our youngest learners. Mountain View is an economically disadvantaged community, and the proportion of families living below the federal poverty level has increased from 19.9% in 2000 to 23.6% in 2017. Rates of unemployment have remained high (over 40%) and have increased in Mountain View, Hawaii from 42% in 2000 to 52% in 2017 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2017).

According to the State of Hawaii, Executive Office of Early Learning (2019), almost half of children in every kindergarten class in Hawaii come to school lacking in social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills vital to their success as early learners because they did not participate in an early learning

program, like preschool. It is 2019. How can we have come so far, and yet our keiki are still so far behind? Is it because 1 in 6 residents in Hawaii live in poverty (Fox, 2017) and the cost of full-time child care, including the majority of preschool programs, represents over 40% of a single parent's income (Child Care Aware of America and Hawaii, 2013)? In economically disadvantaged rural areas, families simply cannot afford private preschool. The achievement gap will only grow if we don't continue to work together to make preschool education accessible to all our keiki, and especially to our most vulnerable populations, like the population we serve at Na Wai Ola PCS.

According to Yoshikawa et al. (2013), preschool experience has been linked to long term benefits for both the individual and for society, especially for children of low income families. The results of the study concluded that preschool has been correlated with lowered high school dropout rates and teenage pregnancies, greater years of education completed, greater income, and reduced crime. Many of these correlations have direct impact on society. Incarceration and welfare incur significant costs to society, both monetarily, and emotionally. According to the Urban Child Institute and the State of Hawaii, Executive Office of Early Learning (2013), persons without preschool education were 2.08 times more likely to be arrested for a misdemeanor, and 2.14 times more likely to be arrested for a felony than those who received preschool education. Furthermore, this report highlights the monetary returns that come from community investment in public preschool. The report states that within a mere four decades, for every dollar the community spent on public preschool, \$5.12 in benefits were returned to private citizens, local, state and federal governments. With this data, we can see that preschool is a worthwhile investment for our government and for our entire society.

As early childhood education (ECE) professionals, we know our work does not and cannot stop at our classroom doors. We must serve as advocates in our communities for young children and their families and engage in ongoing professional development. The PDG provided countless professional

development opportunities for its charter school Pre-K teachers and aides. After nearly 4 years under the grant, we represent a highly-trained workforce dedicated to improving the lives of the keiki in our care and their families. If our charter school Pre-K programs are lost, we lose all that expertise as well. We provide high-quality preschool to children who would otherwise not have access to it without publicly funded programs. Please kokua these communities, their children, and our future and secure the funding to continue the public charter Pre-K programs created under the PDG.

Mahalo nui loa,

Caitlin Kryss, PO Box 711687, Mountain View, HI. 96771

References:

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SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 2:08:49 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brianna Sanchez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today in support of SB967. For my family, having access to a PreK Program at our chosen charter school has been paramount to our daughter's early access to education and my ability to return to the work force. This year I have had a safe space for my child to access high quality instruction at the school of my choosing, Volcano School of Arts & Sciences a Public Charter School. This is invaluable. I implore you to support SB967 so my family's experience will not just be our own, but can be afforded to many more families in the future.

Mahalo,

Brianna Sanchez



LATE

SB967 SD1
RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
House Committee on Lower & Higher Education

March 14, 2019

2:30 p.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB967 SD1, which would amend the charter school law to expressly authorize the State Public Charter School Commission to establish and fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms, and appropriate funds to the Commission to support such classrooms in fiscal year 2019-2020. **This measure is necessary to ensure the continuation of a program that benefits young learners, and increases their likelihood of future academic success and positive overall development.**

In any given year, there are about 17,000 four-year-old children in Hawai'i, approximately half of whom will enter kindergarten without having attended preschool. Not surprisingly, a significant majority of public school kindergarten teachers report that their new students are not ready for school. Encouraging greater preschool attendance may substantially increase our children's readiness for school, and their chances of success in kindergarten and beyond: research shows that children are more likely to succeed in kindergarten, reach higher levels of educational attainment, and contribute meaningfully to society, among other positive outcomes, when provided with the opportunity for high-quality early childhood education.

In 2014, OHA wrote a letter to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), in support of the State's successful application to the USDOE's Preschool Development Grants Program. The State's application proposed to improve kindergarten readiness with an ambitious yet achievable plan, to expand access to high-quality preschool classrooms in high-need communities through a charter school prekindergarten program. Eleven public charter schools, seven of which are Hawaiian culture-based or Hawaiian language immersion schools, currently support prekindergarten classrooms, with charter school directors reporting a significant difference in kindergarten readiness as a result. SB967 SD1 will ensure funding for the continuation of the charter school prekindergarten program, and allow preschool-aged children, including Native Hawaiian keiki, in our public charter schools to continue accessing the advantages of early childhood education.

OHA continues to be a strong supporter of Hawai'i's public charter schools, many of which provide a culturally-grounded education for Native Hawaiian and other children. 17 of the 37 public charter schools in Hawai'i are Hawaiian culture-based or Hawaiian language immersion schools, in which OHA has invested over \$18.6 million between FY 2005-2006 and FY 2016-2017. On October 19, 2017, the OHA Board of Trustees approved an additional \$3 million total to these charter schools for FY 2017-2018 and FY 2018-2019. OHA made this investment because research shows that Hawaiian students exposed to culturally-driven educational strategies have a stronger sense of socio-emotional well-being, deeper engagement with their schools, and a stronger commitment to civic activities in their community, factors which are directly tied to greater academic achievement.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB967 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

FOR: SB 967 SD1 Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
DATE: March 14, 2019
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Lower & Higher Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309
FROM: KĀHELE NAHALE-A, Director
LAUPĀHOEHOE COMMUNITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee:

LAUPĀHOEHOE COMMUNITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 967 SD1.**

Continued funding assistance and support from the State Public Charter School Commission for our GenEd preschool is critical to our school providing a safe, nurturing early learning environment for our community. There are no other formal PreK programs within a 40 mile radius of our school and community. We are the only option for little ones in our area to prepare and be ready for kindergarten. Additionally, the very diverse socio-economic status of our target population either excludes families from low-income opportunities for preschool assistance or makes it impossible for families to pay the “market rate” for preschool tuition that would be necessary to financially sustain a program with high-quality teaching staff. We have worked hard over the last 4 years to build a great PreK program here at Laupāhoehoe. It would be so disheartening for us to have to turn families away for next school year. Please appropriate adequate funds that will allow us to continue what we have built and welcome 20 young minds through our doors next school year. Mahalo.



Ho'okāko'o
Corporation

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON LOWER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

LATE

Testimony In Support of S.B. 967, S.D. 1
Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
Thursday, March 14, 2019, 2:30 PM
Conference Room 309, Hawai'i State Capitol

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

Ho'okāko'o Corporation is in **STRONG SUPPORT of S.B. 967, S.D. 1** which authorizes the State Public Charter School Commission to establish and fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms.

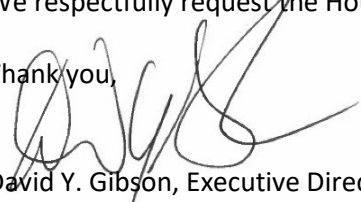
Two of our charter schools, Kualapu'u School on Moloka'i and Kamaile Academy in Wai'anae, are participating in the Preschool Development Grant program administered by the State Public Charter School Commission, collectively serving nearly 70 prekindergarten children.

Early findings indicate that our prekindergarten students demonstrate increased readiness for Kindergarten and stronger academic performance than students who did not attend prekindergarten as evidenced by DIBELS data on First Sound Fluency and Phoneme Segmentation Fluency. Family engagement activities conducted by our prekindergarten programs are also proving to be an effective means to cultivate increased parental involvement in the education of their children, critical to student academic success.

Our children, all of whom are from low income families, deserve every opportunity that helps them succeed in school and in life. Access to prekindergarten is making a positive impact on the lives of our children.

Ho'okāko'o strongly supports S.B. 967, S.D. 1 and the free access to early education for Hawai'i's children. We respectfully request the House Committee on Lower and Higher Education's support of S.B. 967.

Thank you,


David Y. Gibson, Executive Director
Ho'okāko'o Corporation
(808) 983-3835

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:07:09 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diane Arakaki | Kamaile Academy PCS | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 3:22:28 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jenette Foster | kualapuu school | Support | No |

Comments:

Please Support Funding for pre k. I am a teacher at Kualapuu School and can see the benefit of our pre k program. Please support this bill .

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:02:27 PM
Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chris King-Gates | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

There are several studies demonstrating the benefits of effective early childhood education programs and there is a clear need for these programs across the state of Hawai'i. These benefits serve both the families and students who attend these programs as well as the community at large. While I also support proposals to convert existing facilities into pre-kindergarten classrooms the programs covered in this bill are already set up and ready to go. The programs covered in this bill are already licensed, inspected, stocked with materials and furniture, and the professionals in these programs have received an exceptional amount of training. It seems like an obvious choice to continue to invest in these already existing pre-k programs that service communities with few, if any, other current options.

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 5:47:05 PM
Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ashley Plante | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To continue moving forward in our every day changing lives and world around us, we need to continue educate people of all ages. The most important thing we can do is start with our children when they are young, by age five 90% of the brain is developed. We need to lay the foundations for a life time of learning and build upon it as they grow, not have to knock down and rebuild the stucture again.

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:32:45 PM
Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kir klein | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:40:47 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please oppose SB967. Since early childhood learning scaffolds into what is learned at higher grade levels, it makes sense to fund the DOE for preschool programs rather than private/charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:53:43 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joseph Uno | Hookakoo Corporation | Support | No |

Comments:

Pre-Kindergarten is essential in our challenged communities to keep up with our peers in more affluent neighborhoods. Public Education **MUST** be fair as a measure of social justice.

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 7:14:09 PM
Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna Gamiao | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I'm a parent of a Kualapuu student in support of this senate bill.

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 8:07:05 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roberta Meier-Mcgrath | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

fi AM IN SUPPORT OF SB 967 RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION. oUR COMMUNITY NEEDS IT. MAHALO!

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:00:22 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Johnston | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 10:02:37 PM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hazelyn Hernandez | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the funding of pre-k for the public charter schools. As a current preschool teacher, there is a high need for high quality pre-k program on Moloka'i. The current pre-k program at Kualapu'u Public Charter school has been in existence for over 9 years and has successfully been filled every year to 20 students, along with more on the waitlist. The long waitlist signifies a need for pre-k education on Moloka'i. In a rural community, we are often limited to access in early intervention special education services for students who are 5 and under. The pre-k program helps to provide opportunities for keiki to get a head start in interventions services to help them become successful learners in the future.

LATE

SB-967-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2019 8:19:33 AM

Testimony for LHE on 3/14/2019 2:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jill Coombs | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to express my support of this bill. As a working mother of 4, childcare costs have put an extreme pressure on our family budget. The lack of educational settings for early childhood education is also particularly upsetting. We all want to give our children the best start in life, and that is not possible, because living on a neighbor island, those resources barely exist. I support funding Pre-K education for all the children of Hawaii- regardless of income, race, or gender and would urge you to do the same.

Respectfully,

Jill Coombs