



SB967

RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Ke Kōmike Ki'ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai

Pepeluali 15, 2019

10:15 AM

Lumi 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB967, 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 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-967

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 1:32:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/15/2019 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caitlin Botz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Caitlin Botz

Date: February 13, 2019

SUBJECT: Support for S.B. No. 967 – RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION.

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 967 to fund charter school prekindergarten classrooms.

In Hawaii many families with young children struggle to find options for their pre-k aged children. Drawing from my experience of working with families with young children, many of them report to me the struggles they have in finding preschool options in their communities. With the advancement of this bill, this would open up the opportunity for many families to have increased options not only for a child care setting, but one that supports education and academic standards.

Providing more opportunities for children to enter a school based learning environment prior to kindergarten supports a child's social behaviors and interactions and provides them with the foundational skills to be ready for kindergarten. Research shows the importance of early learning environments on young children. Children who participate in preschool based programs typically demonstrate higher cognitive functioning and improved reading and math skills as they get older.

I hope the committee will consider this testimony in support of Senate Bill 967.



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

February 14, 2019

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 967 – RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION.
Hearing Date: February 15, 2019
Time: 10:15 a.m.
Location: Room 211

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

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

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

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.

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>
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FOR: SB 967 Relating to the State Public Charter School Commission
DATE: February 15, 2019
TIME: 10:15 A.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Conference Room 211
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT OF SB 967**, 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 the Legislature, 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.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 967 - RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
COMMISSION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **supports SB 967**, relating to state public charter school commission.

As noted by an MIT working group on the topic, investments in early childhood education pay dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting economic vitality. Research on the benefits of quality pre-kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and criminal justice costs.

Roughly 85 percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five, according to modern neuroscience, emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning environment during these formative years. Preschool brings an approximately \$4.20 return on investment for every dollar spent on quality early childhood services, especially in terms of long term life skills. At the national level, every dollar spent on early childhood education saves taxpayers up to \$13.00 in future costs, including lowered healthcare costs, reduced rates of educational remediation and prison incarceration, and higher productivity.

Access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not only helps working parents fulfill their responsibilities, but is essential for building a 21st century labor force. Early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students. According to the High Scopes/Perry Preschool longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to quality early learning programs were 20 percent more likely to graduate from high school, 14 percent more likely to be employed, and 24 percent less likely to have been incarcerated by age 40 than peers without such access.



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Due to our public charter schools' grants ending that have provided the funds needed for running their pre-school classrooms, this bill will provide the much needed funding to continue these pre-school classrooms that already exist at our public charter schools. It is imperative that we do all we can to ensure our children are “classroom ready,” meaning that they are prepared to receive basic instruction and effectively socialize with peers upon entering elementary school, placing both our keiki and their teachers on the path to success. We do not want to lose any pre-school classrooms when our goal is to ensure we have pre-schools available at all of our public schools, including our public charter schools.

Utilizing public school resources for the provision of early learning will place our children's futures in the hands of the state's most qualified education professionals, namely our certificated and licensed public school teachers. Public early learning includes research-based, developmentally appropriate practices that are associated with better educational outcomes for children. **We need to maintain our current pre-school classrooms and continue to expand the amount of classrooms we have for our keiki in our public schools, including our public charter schools.**

Because early childhood education is beneficial to lifetime learning, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 967

February 15, 2019
10:15 a.m.
Room 211

RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Senate Bill No. 967 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.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

LATE

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Date: Monday, February 15, 2019

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211

Testimony by: Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Managing Director of Kūamahi Community Education

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

E ka Luna Ho‘omaluku Dela Cruz, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omaluku Keith-Agaran, a me nā Lālā ‘ē a‘e o kēia Kōmike o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa, aloha kākou!

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

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.**