

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: SCR 71/SR 49 Urging the Executive Office on Early Learning to Examine and Consider a Sliding Scale Tuition or Fee Schedule for State Pre-Kindergarten Programs

DATE: March 18, 2019

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

COMMITTEE: Committee on Education

ROOM: Conference Room 229

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committees:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony to **SUPPORT THE INTENT OF SCR 71/SR 49**, that urges the Executive Office on Early Learning to examine and consider a sliding scale tuition or fee schedule for state pre-kindergarten program.

We appreciate the committee’s recognition to increasing access to high-quality early learning opportunities. Increasing access is critical to those that have limited early learning options, particularly in those living in rural areas across the state.

We defer to EOEL regarding the other components of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**SCR-71**

Submitted on: 3/16/2019 10:39:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Vote no. Pre-school is unnecessary for the children and a big waste of our tax dollars. We don't need a socialistic sliding scale tuition system that constitutes more oppressive government intrusion into our private lives. Those who can't afford to attend should consider themselves lucky. We are over taxed and the cost benefit is non-existent. Do not pass this bill.



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

March 17, 2019

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

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** S.C.R. No. 71 / S.R. No. 49 – URGING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING TO EXAMINE AND CONSIDER A SLIDING SCALE TUITION OR FEE SCHEDULE FOR STATE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.  
**Hearing Date:** March 18, 2019  
**Time:** 2:45 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 229

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support**

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of SCR 71 / SR49.

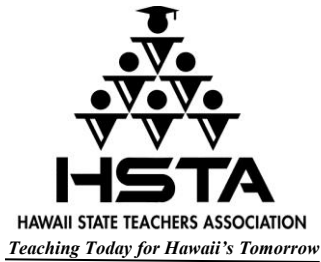
EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition that families of young children in Hawaii need greater assistance with accessing high-quality early learning options.

We agree that implementation of a sliding scale fee for the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program would afford greater access to families who are able to pay for some of the costs of a prekindergarten education. We do wish to discuss this with the Early Learning Board and other stakeholders.

To note, the Program prioritizes underserved and at-risk children pursuant to statute – those who can benefit the most from early learning. In the 2017-2018 school year, 94.7% of children in the Program had family incomes at or below 300% of the federal poverty guidelines for Hawaii. The Program also prioritizes opening up in communities where there are few early learning options.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.



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Corey Rosenlee  
President

Osa Tui Jr.  
Vice President

Logan Okita  
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SCR 71/SR 49 - URGING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING TO EXAMINE AND CONSIDER A SLIDING SCALE TUITION OR FEE SCHEDULE FOR STATE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

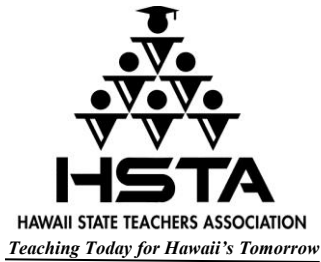
Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **opposes** SCR 71/SR 49, urging the Executive Office on Early Learning to examine and consider a sliding scale tuition or fee schedule for State Prekindergarten programs.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association believes that universal prekindergarten should be included in the State of Hawaii's public education system. As such it should not be only for those that can afford to pay for prekindergarten, as with other public education in our public schools, it should be free. SCR 71/SR 49 sets a horrible precedent if it is okay to charge for prekindergarten what is next a sliding scale for kindergarten through 12th? This would set a precedent for public education not being free and for all of our society, HSTA does not support charging a fee for public education, including pre-K.

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**



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**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. 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.

These are the reasons the state needs to ensure that all our keiki should have access to free public pre-kindergarten, not just those that pay for it.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks that your committee to **oppose** SCR 71/SR 49.

**LATE**

**SCR-71**

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 7:36:06 AM  
Testimony for EDU on 3/18/2019 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SCR71. PreK is cost-prohibitive in Hawai'i, yet the earlier the intervention for at-risk students the better they will fare cognitively and career-wise in the long run.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/18/2019  
**Time:** 02:45 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 071 URGING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING TO EXAMINE AND CONSIDER A SLIDING SCALE TUITION OR FEE SCHEDULE FOR STATE PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

**Purpose of Resolution:**

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of SCR 71 and respectfully offers comments.

The Department steadfastly embraces the State's vision and goal to expand universal access to quality pre-kindergarten programs especially in high poverty, under-served areas.

Further, we remain fully committed to working with the Executive Office on Early Learning, agencies and organizations to actively participate in discussions to ensure that Hawaii's preschoolers are provided with opportunities that foster health, safety, early childhood education, school readiness and success.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 71.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at [www.hawaiipublicschools.org](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).