



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 25, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

By
David Lassner, President
University of Hawai'i

HB 1562 HD1 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1562 HD1 relating to the inclusion of the director of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawai'i P-20) as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Early Learning Board.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 1562 HD1. Since its establishment by the 2016 legislation, the Early Learning Board (ELB) has been responsible for:

1. Directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from prenatal care into kindergarten and improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early care and education programs.
2. Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children.
3. Serving as an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning.
4. Appointing and dismissing the director of EOEL.

Hawai'i P-20 strengthens the education pipeline from early childhood through postsecondary education and training with data-informed decision making, advocacy, policy coordination, and shared action. Its work is focused on high expectations and equitable access so that all students thrive in school, career, and life. This mission aligns with ELB's responsibilities to support young children's academic and life-long outcomes.

Hawai'i P-20 has served as a partner, advocate, and voice for the entire education pipeline, including but not limited to programs and initiatives that strengthen early learning. Specifically, its P-3 Initiative has worked closely with EOEL and early childhood stakeholders to develop the Hawai'i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS) and the Hawai'i State Literacy Plan. A recent partnership includes the management and implementation of the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five program, which led to the Hawai'i Early Childhood Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the Hawai'i Early Childhood Strategic Implementation Plan.

Furthermore, Hawai'i P-20 is capable of data analysis and facilitating of data sharing agreements throughout the educational pipeline and into the workforce, which could lend valuable perspectives to ELB.

The importance of establishing a solid educational foundation for our youngest students is paramount, and UH supports all efforts to proactively support, expand, and improve early learning opportunities throughout our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.



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

February 23, 2022

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Coleen Momohara, Interim Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 1562 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD
Hearing Date: Friday, February 25, 2022
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Room 309 and videoconference

Bill Description: Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the Early Learning Board. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1.)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S COMMENTS

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is providing comments on H.B. No. 1562 H.D. 1 – relating to the early learning board.

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 Early Learning Board (ELB) was established as a governing board through Act 202, SLH 2017.

The ELB is responsible for directing the EOEL on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs; promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and appointing the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

Recognizing the important role the ELB has in both representing the diverse field of early care and education in Hawaii and providing key insight and guidance to the EOEL, the ELB's perspective on this bill is of utmost importance and we defer to ELB on the provisions of this bill. Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



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

Date: 02/25/2022

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: 308 Via Videoconference

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1562, HD1 RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD.

Purpose of Bill: Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the early learning board. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 1562, HD1.

The Department supports the addition of the Executive Director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education (Hawaii P-20) serving as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the Early Learning Board. As the mission of Hawaii P-20 is to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through post-secondary education and training, the Executive Director's insight will be invaluable as part of the Early Learning Board. Furthermore, Hawaii P-20's capacity for data analysis and facilitation of data sharing agreements throughout the educational pipeline could prove to be helpful for the Early Learning Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1562, HD1.

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee On Finance

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** HB 1562, HD 1 Relating to Early Education
Hearing Date: Friday, February 25, 2022
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: Conference Room 308 Via Videoconference

Description: Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the Early Learning Board. Effective 7/1/2050 (HD 1)

Early Learning Board Position: Comments

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments about HB 1562, HD 1 on behalf of the ELB.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning.

The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors. This bill would increase the Board's current size by adding the Director of P-20 Partnerships for Education as a permanent, ex-officio and non-voting member of the ELB.

HB 1562 was discussed at our recent Board meeting with no position taken on the bill. Comments indicated that the Board is mixed in its response about the advisability of adding a new permanent seat. While there was no question raised about the value of the P-20 voice, either in its own right or as the UH representative, some raised questions about Board size along with what characteristics should qualify for a permanent Board seat. ELB has set Board composition and organization as one of its priority issues for the year where these questions can be addressed.

While I am unable to attend today's hearing, I can be available to answer Committee Member questions at a later date if desired. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1562, HD 1.

HB-1562-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 12:44:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yet Oi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Other state agencies have different office or programs that would also benefit providing guidance or insights for the Early Learning Board to strengthen early childhood system building but they are not requesting an additional, separate ex-officio member representation on the Early Learning Board. The Early Learning Board membership is very large as it is, and adding on additional members, ex-officio or voting, haphazardly without clear criteria and purpose will make it difficult to make decisions by the Early Learning Board. The President of the University of Hawaii has designated the director of Hawaii P-20 to represent the UH system on the Early Learning Board. Hawaii P-20 is also not precluded from providing public input during public testimony or at subcommittee meetings or other community meetings. The Early Learning Board should devise its own criteria for the number and scope of membership roles as to whether it will expand or reduce its current size and provide that to the Legislature in the 2023 session. I oppose this measure.