



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

February 25, 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. 1939 H.D. 1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: Friday, February 25, 2022
Time: 11:00 am
Location: Videoconference

Bill Description: Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources for the office. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1.)

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

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the intention of this bill, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the EOEL to enhance the office's capacity and resources.

We thank the Legislature for its support of EOEL's work to increase access to high-quality early learning. 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. In addition, pursuant to Act 046, SLH 2020, EOEL is responsible for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

The 2 FTE positions would help ensure EOEL has the capacity to achieve the Legislature's ambitious goal of increasing access to early learning programs and to fulfill the Office's statutory obligations to administer the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program and coordinate a high-quality early learning system. The positions would aide in fiscal/budget related matters and the creation and implementation of contracts related to expanding early learning programs and services associated with public and privately funded pre-K programs, Pre-Plus child development services, family-child interaction learning programs and systems coordination efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** HB 1939, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning
Hearing Date: Friday, February 25, 2022
Time: 11:00 A.M.
Location: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Description: Appropriates funds for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources for the office. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Early Learning Board Position: Support the Intent

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board, offering testimony in support of the intent of HB 1939, HD 1, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the EOEL to enhance the office's capacity and resources.

As the governing board for EOEL, we thank the Legislature for its support of EOEL's work to increase access to high-quality early learning. 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. In addition, pursuant to Act 046, SLH 2020, EOEL is responsible for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

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Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the intent of HB 1939, HD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
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
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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 CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1939, H.D. 1

February 25, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1939, H.D. 1, establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent Business Management Officer position and 1.00 FTE permanent Contract Specialist position and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for these positions for the Executive Office on Early Learning.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



Date: February 24, 2022

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

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HB1939, Relating to Early Learning**

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS supports passage of HB1939, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL).

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. The broad scope of this responsibility and the critical needs of children and families addressed by the work of the Office require appropriate resourcing.

HB1939 would enhance capacity of EOEL at a pivotal point in the recovery and potential expansion of the early learning system in Hawaii and ECAS respectfully requests your support in passing this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB1939**.



Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Luke, Chair
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1939 HD1, relating to early learning**
11:00 AM, February 25, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of House bill 1939 HD1**, relating to early learning.

This measure would appropriate funding for two positions within the Executive Office on Early Learning. These are necessary positions for EOEL to fulfill its statutory obligations, including but not limited to, increasing access to affordable, quality early learning programs for children. EOEL works tirelessly to support children and families with a small, dedicated staff but to make significant improvements in our early learning system, they must be appropriately resourced.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



— H a w a i i —
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Feb. 24, 2022

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

From: Dr. Terry Lock, Director
Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education

Subject: Measure – HB 1939 HD1: RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION.
Hearing Date - February 25, 2022
Time – 11:00 am
Location: Room 308 and videoconference

Support of HB 1939 HD1: Relating to Early Learning

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education and currently serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project. This project's goal is to transform early childhood education lead teacher preparation programs and compensation/ financing systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am in strong support of HB 1939 HD1. This bill seeks appropriations for two (2) full time permanent positions for the Executive Office on Early Learning. One position will be a business management officer to facilitate, coordinate, and monitor budgets and fiscal processes; and the other will be a contract specialist to facilitate, coordinate, and monitor contracts and the procurement process related to the implementation of early learning programs and services.

Both positions are critically to the operations of EOEL, so EOEL can better fulfil their vision to establish a comprehensive and integrated statewide early childhood development and learning system that will ensure a solid foundation for Hawaii's young children, prenatal through age five, meaningful engagement and supports for their families, and a stable, competent, and supported early childhood workforce.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 1939 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Terry Lock