

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 9, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1999 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 10, 2022, 2:00 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the proposed bill as it provides the opportunity for school readiness to children in the year prior to their entry into kindergarten. DHS respectfully requests that any priorities in this measure do not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill appropriates moneys to the Department of Human Services for the Preschool Open Doors Program.

Section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), codifies the school readiness program Preschool Open Doors (POD) to provide children from low to moderately-low income families the opportunity to attend a group child care setting for up to one year prior to their entry into kindergarten as a means of aiding their transition into a school setting.

During the 2021 legislative session, the POD budget was reduced by \$6,960,000 as part of general funds reductions to balance the State's budget due to pandemic-related revenue losses. The annual POD appropriation for child care subsidies went from \$11,600,000 to \$4,640,000 and resulted in a decrease of the number of children POD could serve from 1,100 to 587 starting July 2021. To make sure families continued to have access to child care, DHS made

federal child care subsidies available through its Child Care Connection Hawaii (CCCH) program. The main differences between the programs are that POD is focused on the child's experience and does not require parents to be engaged in employment or school. The federal CCCH subsidy is to provide safe and affordable child care so parents or caregivers can maintain employment or pursue education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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**  
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)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1999

**February 10, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 309 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO EDUCATION

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

House Bill No. 1999 appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to the Department of Human Services in FY 23 for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) Program.

B&F notes that Cash Support for Child Care (HMS 305) has \$4,640,000 in general funds in its base budget for POD in FB 2021-23.

B&F also 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.



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

February 9, 2022

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

Representative Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair  
Representative Troy N. Hashimoto, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Housing

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

**SUBJECT: Measure:** H.B. No. 1999 – RELATING TO EDUCATION  
**Hearing Date:** Thursday, February 10, 2022  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Videoconference

**Bill Description:** Appropriates moneys to the Department of Human Services for the Preschool Open Doors program.

**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 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program, and defers to DHS.

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.

It is during the earliest years when the environments, supports, and relationships experienced by children have profound effects on their developing brains and their trajectory for learning and development, making high-quality early care and education programs are a critical support for young children and their families. Although there is widespread recognition of the importance of high-quality early learning opportunities and increased investments to the sector, the cost of care can be unaffordable for many families in Hawaii. The POD program promotes school readiness by providing child care subsidies for eligible families, helping to alleviate the high cost of care.

EOEL recognizes the importance of programs such as POD that help increase access to early learning programs for Hawaii's youngest children and defers to the DHS. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**HB-1999**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 2:19:56 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mike Golojuch, Sr.  | Rainbow Family 808  | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports HB1999.



Hawaii  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

To: Representative Woodson, Chair  
Representative Kapela, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

Re: **HB 1999, relating to education**  
2:00 PM, February 10, 2022

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in support of House bill 1999**, relating to education.

Preschool open doors (POD) is a child care subsidy provided through state general funds. It serves families who are ineligible for the federally funded Child Care Connection Hawai'i subsidy program. For the last five years, the funding for POD was around \$11.6M. In 2021, the funding for the program was cut to \$4.6M, drastically reducing the number of children who can be served. Because of the severe reduction in funding, there is a chance that POD may run out of money before the program year ends. According to the most recent information presented at the Child Care Advisory Committee, that would mean the loss of subsidy for almost 600 children.

I respectfully request the following amendments to the measure:

- Include an emergency appropriation for Preschool Open Doors program for the current fiscal year to ensure children can continue to receive subsidy and remain in their early learning programs
- The amount appropriated in section 1 be equal to the amount necessary to serve 25% of three- and four-year-olds eligible for the program, as described in Section 1 (5) Act 46, 2020, "unserved children who are three to four years of age, or will not be at least five years of age on or before July 31 of the current school year"
- Change the effective date from July 1, 2022 to effective upon approval

To prevent children and families from losing their subsidy for programs, we ask that the measure be passed quickly. **For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.**

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director, Early Learning and Health Policy



Committee on Education

Representative Justin Woodson, Chair

Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Committee on Housing

Representative Nadine Nakamura, Chair

Representative Troy Hashimoto, Vice Chair

February 10, 2022

Dear Chairs Woodson and Nakamura, Vice Chairs Kapela and Hashimoto, and Members of the Committees,

We support HB 1999, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Human Services for the preschool open doors program.

We support all approaches to increase access to quality early learning seats in our system. We understand that Hawai'i has a mixed delivery of early learning opportunities and Preschool Open Doors is one of the mechanisms for access. Preschool Open Doors subsidies help families afford sending their children to quality early learning programs to help them prepare for school.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director





Academy 21  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*HawaiiKidsCAN  
\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance  
\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
Hawai'i Scholars for Education and Social Justice  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
\*Hawai'i Youth Service  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
Native Hawaiian Education Council  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education

*Voting Members (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

**HB-1999**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:05:55 PM

Testimony for EDN on 2/10/2022 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Remote Testimony Requested</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Makanoe Hufana      | Individual          | Support                   | No                                |

Comments:

I support HB1999- Relating to funding for Open Doors Program that subsidizes early childcare tuition.

Mahalo,

Makanoe Hufana