



Hawai'i  
Association for the  
Education of  
Young  
Children

haeyc

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Shelley Ng, Vice President of Public Policy for  
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony addressed to House Education Committee  
For hearing on February 2, Monday, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.  
HB 395 Relating to Early Learning

'Ano'ai kakou! Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Berg, and esteemed members of the House Education Committee.

As the vice president of public policy for the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC), I represent 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state. My name is Shelley Ng.

I support the proposed amendment to §302-L5, Keiki First Steps Trust Fund, which would require any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund. This amendment would allow the Early Learning Council more flexibility and discretion in budgeting for unanticipated changes in projected or actual expenses, thereby increasing prudent budget management.

The staff and board of Hawaii AEYC are most willing to assist the House Education Committee in providing information or strategies that can better inform the decision-making over this proposed amendment. I invite you to contact us at 942-4708.

Hawaii AEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0 – 8) and their families.

Best wishes during this legislative session.



To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair  
Representative Lyla Berg, Vice Chair  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

From: Liz Chun

Date: Monday, February 2, 2009  
2:00 p.m., Room 309

**Subject: HB395, Relating to Early Learning**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and members of the House Education Committee, Good Beginnings Alliance strongly supports HB395 to allow any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

Good Beginnings Alliance has been actively supporting the new Early Learning Council through its different subcommittees. We recognize the importance of continuing this work despite the current state budget challenges. Passage of this bill will allow the Early Learning Council to carry on its work during the next fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth Chun".

Elisabeth Chun  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Hearing date:  
**Monday,**  
**February 2,**  
**2009, 2:00 p.m.**  
House  
Committee on  
Education.  
Please deliver  
35 copies of  
testimony to  
Room 324.



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the House Committee on Education  
Hearing Date: Monday, February 2, 2009  
2:00 p.m. – Conference Room 309

**Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni, PhD**  
**Director, Public Education Support (PEdS) Division**  
Kamehameha Schools

Friday, January 30, 2009

Re: HB 395 - Relating to Early Learning

Good afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and members of the Education Committee. My name is Christopher Pating and I am Vice President, Strategic Planning & Implementation for Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 395.

Kamehameha Schools applauds the legislature for establishing the Early Learning Council. We have been participating extensively in the Early Learning Council and look forward to participating in on going dialog on this critically important matter. We ask you to support this measure as funding for early learning is essential to the Early Learning Council's success for all of Hawaii.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve 5,400 K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and 1,317 three-and-four-year-olds at 31 preschool sites statewide. Last year, we provided \$4.4 million in scholarships to 850 keiki attending community preschools.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education (ECE) Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai'i to appropriately address the needs of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

January 30, 2009

To: House Committee on Education  
Rep. Roy M. Takumi, Chair  
Rep. Lyla B. Berg, Vice Chair

In Re: HB 395

Good Afternoon Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg and members of the Education Committee. My name is Bob Peters. I am the Head of Hanahau`oli School and the HAIS designee to the Early Learning Council enacted by the Legislature last year through Act 14. As Chair of the Early Learning Council, I am submitting testimony representing the Council. We strongly support HB 395 which requires all unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

As you know the Early Learning Council is just beginning its operation as authorized by Act 14. It has created a governance structure and designed a Plan of Work which is being supported by sub-committees authorized by the Act. To date the general fund allocation from Act 14 is the sole funding source to support the work of the Council (e.g., hiring of an Executive Director, clerical assistance, transportation from Neighbor Islands, etc.). If not placed into the trust fund, general fund dollars will be lost as of the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2009. After that point, the Council would be left with no funds to support its operation.

The Legislature demonstrated its understanding and support of early learning during its last session by creating the Early Learning Council. The Legislature has charged the Council with creating a comprehensive plan which will take time and require operational funding. While this bill will help us to continue operations and keep the Council functional, it will not address the needs outlined in the Council's work plan. Full funding of the Council's efforts will require additional funding mechanisms from both the private and public sectors.

HB 395 is of critical importance as the Council moves ahead with the charges given to it by Act 14. We all recognize the importance of early learning for our keiki and the need for the Council to be able to move ahead with its work. Applying unencumbered and unexpended funds to the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund will allow the Council to continue its work and contribute to a sustainable Hawaii by investing in our children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of this bill.

Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Early Learning Council, Chair

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 395

February 2, 2009

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

House Bill No. 395 proposes that any general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system under Chapter 302L that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of the fiscal period specified in the appropriating Act shall lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

We oppose this bill because it will further reduce the amount of funds available for the State's general fund.

Although we support efforts to develop high-quality early learning opportunities, we note that the Department of Education has the authority to carry over up to 5% of any appropriation rather than lapsing unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2007 and Fiscal Year 2008, the Department of Education's general fund carryovers were over \$40 million each year. Normally, any unexpended amounts would have lapsed to the general fund.

In light of the current fiscal crisis, we cannot afford to reduce the State's general fund balance.