

Date: 03/21/2011

Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0931,SD2(sscr607) Relating to Early Learning

Purpose of Bill: Requires the early learning council, with assistance from the department of education, the department of health, and the department of human services, to develop a fiscal mapping study. Requires a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012. Effective 07/01/2050.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports SB 931, SD2 (SSCR 607). The Early Learning Council provides guidance and direction to the development of Hawaii's comprehensive early learning system. The council plays an important role in identifying and promoting statewide efforts to improve the readiness of young children in Hawaii. A fiscal mapping study will help the council identify sources of funding for the early learning system and move forward their mission of all children in Hawaii beginning school in a safe, culturally appropriate, educationally sound, and healthy condition. The Department looks forward to working collaboratively along side the Early Learning Council, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

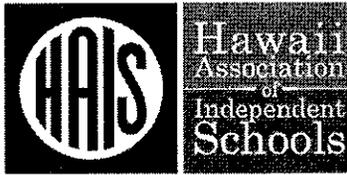
SUBJECT: **S.B. 931, S.D. 2 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING**

Hearing: Monday, March 21, 2011; 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 931, S.D. 2, is to require the Early Learning Council (ELC), with assistance from the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services, to develop a fiscal mapping study and provide a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill. The DHS has always assisted the early care and education community by providing data and other kinds of information for the purposes of research and analysis to be done for improvements to services offered to young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



March 21, 2011
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB 931, SD 2 – Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

The Association supports Senate Bill 931 – Relating to Early Learning.

HAIS has always been an advocate for educational programming and services for young children and is a great supporter of the Early Learning Council – of which the head of one of our member schools, Dr. Robert Peters of Hanahau’oli School, serves as co-chair – and its work to develop a comprehensive early childhood education system for our state.

The Early Learning Council requires operational funding to continue the good work it has already begun, including coordinating, improving, and expanding all early learning programs and services. Developing a fiscal mapping study to include the identification and development of a direct funding stream, including public and private funding, donations, and grants will aid in finding the urgently needed funds required.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Hearing date:
Monday, March
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House Committee
on Education

To: Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Monday, March 21, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

Subject: **SB 931 SD2: Requires the early learning council, with assistance from the department of education, the department of health, and the department of human services, to develop a fiscal mapping study. Requires a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2012. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop. Good Beginnings is also a member of One Voice for Hawaii's Children (www.onevoiceforchildren.net), an alliance of organizations and individuals committed to the development of an effective and equitably funded early childhood system that gives all young children the opportunity to arrive at kindergarten safe, healthy and ready to succeed. The following information is provided to help you in your decision-making process.

The Early Learning Council was established by Act 14, Special Session 2008, to develop and administer the early learning system for Hawaii. We are hopeful that the ELC will continue to be funded so they will have the resources to produce the full system plan. They are comprised of volunteers with no full time staff to accomplish the critical development the state's early learning system to benefit all children throughout Hawaii, from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.

We know that the Council is also working on a long-term and fiscally responsible plan to launch such a system. The fiscal mapping study to include the identification and development of a direct funding stream of the system mentioned in this bill is in accordance with this task. Moreover, it was announced this week that the Governor will soon designate the Early Learning Council as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education as mandated in the federal Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007.

Mahalo for your consideration and your support of the Early Learning Council. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; lchun@goodbeginnings.org