

**Written Comments**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

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

**Date:** 02/25/2015  
**Time:** 09:00 AM  
**Location:** 211  
**Committee:** Senate Ways and Means

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 0844, SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**Purpose of Bill:** Establishes the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program to be administered by the executive office on early learning which may partner with the department of education. Appropriates funds to establish the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program. (SD1)

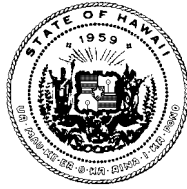
**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education recognizes the importance of early childhood education, as well as its impact upon our children's future outcomes and the state's economic growth. We offer the following comments.

Our mission is to ensure Hawaii's public school students receive a quality education. As such, the Department is tasked with providing education for students in grades K-12 and its expertise and priorities lies therein. Furthermore, our current infrastructure with regards to early childhood recruitment, certification, capacity-building and resources to lead and support early learning is limited and underdeveloped.

The Department suggest that the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) maintain the early childhood expertise, including but not limited to comprehensive early childhood development and learning. Therefore, any early childhood programs should be under the management and operational oversight of the EOEL.

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



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 23, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 844 S.D. 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

Hearing: Wednesday, February 25, 2015; 9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 844 S.D. 1 is to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Pre-kindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning which may partner with Department of Education and appropriates funds to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Pre-kindergarten program.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill provided that its passage cannot replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The DHS defers to the Department of Education (DOE), the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL), and the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission on operational and implementation issues. The DHS offers the following comments.

**Child care licensing.** For working families who need child care before or after the DOE prekindergarten (EOEL PreK) program begins and ends, the child care program may need to be licensed by the DHS if the DOE does not directly operate the child care program.

**Preschool Open Doors.** Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established the existing child care assistance program, Preschool Open Doors (POD), as the statewide school readiness program and is administered by the DHS. Act 169 is codified as section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The POD program currently serves low to moderate income families whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.

The DHS expanded the POD program this state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 to cover almost 1,300 children. The total budget for SFY 2015 is \$7.6 million (with \$1.6 million in the DHS' base budget, HMS-305). The POD expansion funds in the amount of \$6,000,000 were provided for SFY 2015 only to serve up to additional 1,050 eligible children. Until SFY 2014, the POD program served 315-320 children utilizing \$1.6 million in the base budget. Families, whose children are enrolled in classrooms on DOE public school campuses or at a public charter school, are not eligible for POD program services.

**EOEL PreK.** The DHS comments that if the intent of the bill is to eventually serve ALL 4 year olds who will be entering Kindergarten in the following year, then the POD program may no longer be needed for the 4 year olds, and DHS recommends amending section 346-181, HRS. However, if this is the case, DHS foresees a transition period where POD and EOEL PreK co-exist as DOE implements the EOEL PreK program.

If the EOEL PreK program cannot serve ALL 4 year olds, then POD could continue, and DOE would need to work with DHS to identify those communities with few private preschools in order to increase the number of 4 year olds who have access to some kind of PreK or school readiness program.

We raise this concern because the measure proposes that the EOEL PreK program is voluntary. As proposed, parents retain the choice to not enroll their children in the proposed EOEL PreK program and, instead, may choose to enroll their children in the POD program, or

seek Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funding (child care subsidies) to send their children to private child care programs.

The DHS anticipates that families, who will be eligible for the POD program, more than likely, will prefer to enroll their children in the EOEL PreK program run by DOE with an expectation that children will be able to transition to the Kindergarten at the same school. Furthermore, these families would prefer to enroll their children in a program with “education” focus over the “high quality child care” settings of POD.

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

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**('AHA KULA HO'ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

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FOR: SB 844 SD1 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education  
DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 2015  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
ROOM: Conference Room 211  
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission ("Commission") appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of the intent of Senate Bill 844 SD1, "Relating to Public Early Childhood Education," which would establish an early learning prekindergarten program to be provided through the Department of Education schools and charter schools.

The Commission recently was awarded a \$14.8 million federal grant from the Preschool Development Grants Program to support the creation of high-quality pre-kindergarten classrooms at 18 charter schools across the state over the next four years. This grant focuses on providing pre-kindergarten to underserved communities with large high-needs populations. Over the years of implementing the grant, the Commission plans to work with the schools, private funders, the Legislature, and other stakeholders on program sustainability beyond the life of the grant. HB 820 offers one potential path to program sustainability.

The Commission supports the intent of this measure but would like to offer a comment to provide greater clarity on its applicability to public charter schools. As drafted, subsection 302L- (h) (page 21, lines 10-17) currently indicates that the public charter schools themselves shall give priority to schools that serve high populations of underserved or at-risk children. We request that be amended to read as follows:

"The department of education and any public charter school existing pursuant to chapter 302D, may use available classrooms for public preschool programs statewide.

The department of education shall give priority to schools that serve high populations of underserved or at-risk children. The office shall give priority to public charter schools that serve high populations of underserved or at-risk children. Preschool classrooms established pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any classrooms used for the pre-plus program established pursuant to section 302L-1.7."

This will appropriately allow the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to coordinate and prioritize charter school preschool programs administered through this chapter.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE**  
**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

PERSON TESTIFYING: Lynn Hammonds, Executive Director

DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 2015

TIME: 9:00 AM

LOCATION: State Capitol Conference Room 211

TITLE OF BILL: SB844 SD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

PURPOSE OF BILL: Establishes the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program to be administered by the executive office on early learning which may partner with the department of education. Appropriates funds to establish the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program. (SD1)

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) supports SB844 SD1 to establish a pre-kindergarten program in partnership with the department of education and encourages the inclusion of charter schools so that children in all Hawaii public schools may be served.

The HTSB believes that early childhood classrooms should be staffed by professionally trained, early childhood licensed teachers and encourages the Executive Office on Early Learning and Hawaii Educator Preparation Programs to work together to provide adequate numbers of trained teachers for all early childhood classrooms in Hawaii public schools.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**

**919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101**

**Honolulu, HI 96814**

**Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129**

**email: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)**

February 25, 2015

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*  
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice  
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta  
Dr. Tammy Bopp  
Dr. Robert Campbell  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,  
*liaison to the Superintendent*  
Ms. Gabriele Finn  
Ms. Jenny Gong  
Ms. Natalie Haggerty  
Ms. Barbara Ioli  
Ms. Valerie Johnson  
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa  
Ms. Bernadette Lane  
Ms. Dale Matsuura  
Ms. Stacey Oshio  
Ms. Zaidarene Place  
Ms. Barbara Pretty  
Ms. Kau'i Rezendes  
Ms. Rosie Rowe  
Dr. Patricia Sheehey  
Mr. Tom Smith  
Ms. Lani Solomona  
Dr. Daniel Ulrich  
Dr. Amy Wiech  
Ms. Jasmine Williams  
Ms. Susan Wood

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 844, SD 1 - Relating to Public Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** the intent of SB 844, SD 1 that establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through public schools, including charter schools.

SEAC concurs with the program focus on four year olds, and in particular, underserved and at-risk children, who may lag behind their peers without quality early learning supports. Quality intervention at an early age can reduce the need for more intensive interventions, including special education and related services, in subsequent years.

SEAC also believes that increasing the availability of early learning programs that meet the high quality standards set by the Office of Early Learning Prekindergarten Program will create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

We recommend for your consideration a change in the term *family engagement* to *family partnership* and the inclusion of a definition of *family partnership*. The Executive Office on Early Learning created the **Hawaii Family Partnership Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings** in 2013 to promote high standards and shared expectations for families and staff of early childhood programs. The Guidelines are also intended to align with the Family-School Partnership Standards being proposed for implementation by the Department of Education.





These Family Partnership Guidelines can be found at <http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Family-Partnership-Guidelines.pdf>.

Specifically, we recommend that you consider the following changes:

- 1) Substitute the term *family partnership* for the term *family engagement* on page 20, line 10, (3).
- 2) Substitute the definition of *family partnership* as follows for the definition of *family engagement* found on page 22, lines 7-12: “‘Family partnership’ means practices that follow the key principles of welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supporting success, speaking up for every child, sharing decision-making and partnering with the community.”

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Ivallee Sinclair, Chair

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

February 25, 2014

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for SB844 SD1, which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition has been a strong advocate for early learning since our inception in 2010. We have supported early learning legislation for the past few years, and have been particularly concerned about the late-born four year olds, who have not been able to attend public Kindergarten since the 2014-2015 year. Therefore, we support SB844 SD1, which establishes an early learning public prekindergarten program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning. We like that the program focuses on four-year olds with priority to underserved or at-risk children. We also like that the program incorporates high quality standards and developmentally appropriate practices, which includes attention to family engagement, the foundation of our Coalition. Further, we are encouraged that the bill incorporates points on the program implementation, specifically, supporting teacher professional development, coordination with other agencies to support children and data collection to monitor the progress of the program. Finally, we are happy to see that the bill was amended to add language granting Geographic Exceptions for students attending schools with a Prekindergarten Program.

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

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Junior Achievement of Hawaii  
\*Kaho'omiki  
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  
Our Public School  
\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

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



TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: February 25, 2015  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
Hawai'i State Capitol

FROM: Kamehameha Schools

**RE: SENATE BILL 844 SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 844 SD 1 relating to public early childhood education. Kamehameha Schools offers comments in **support** of establishing the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and three-and-four-year-olds at preschool sites statewide. In 2004, the Early Childhood Education division also began serving keiki from birth to three years old, as part of its Hi'ilani Early Childhood Collaborative program. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other preschools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education 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.



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

345 Queen Street, Suite 500 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means

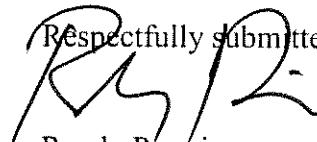
Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO  
February 25, 2015

S.B. 844, SD1 – RELATING TO  
PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO supports S.B. 844, SD1 which establishes the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program to be administered by the executive office on early learning which may partner with the department of education and appropriates funds to establish the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program.

Investments in education, especially early childhood education are important for our keiki's success. Establishing a prekindergarten program is an investment that will payoff for future generations and help students succeed and perform well in school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Randy Perreira  
President



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 844 SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 844 SD1, which establishes the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program to be administered by the executive office on early learning which may partner with the department of education. Also appropriates funds to establish the executive office on early learning pre-kindergarten program.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The establishment of the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning is another necessary and positive step in establishing a foundation for early learning programs in our state.

The Chamber believes that this measure must be in place to provide services to children before they enter kindergarten. Providing family child interaction learning programs as part of a mixed delivery early learning system is critical in ensuring school readiness of Hawaii's children prior to entering kindergarten.

Also, the Chamber strongly believes that focusing on early childhood is critical because brain development takes place by age five. We believe it is imperative to begin investing early in a child's life, when the brain is in this state of tremendous growth potential. In 2008, the Hawaii Economic Benefits Study of early education for Hawai'i showed that for every \$1 Hawai'i invests in a quality four-year early learning program, the state will receive a return of \$4.20. This is not only about return of investment, but in providing for our employees and their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony To  
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

9:00 am

Room 211

Re: SB 844 – Related to Early Childhood Education

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am a recently retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Over the past 10 years, I have served as a Chair of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and currently as Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the ELAB in support of SB 844, A Bill for an Act Relating to Early Childhood Education which establishes the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program and funding associated with the Program.

The bill seeks to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) prekindergarten program to be administered by the EOEL and provided through public schools, including charter schools. Both my own experience as a member of the early learning community and the abundance of research on school success confirm the value of high quality early childhood education for all children. Benefits are noted in school readiness, general school success and long-term quality of life and contributions as community members. In addition, dollars invested in early education pay dividends for communities as a whole by reducing costs for remediation in schools, reduction in crime and welfare expenses along with reduced homelessness and substance abuse. A study in Hawaii completed in 2008 by Good Beginnings Alliance determined that for every dollar invested in early learning a four dollar plus return could be expected.

This bill provides for a prekindergarten program built around widely accepted standards of high quality which are research-based, developmentally appropriate and identified with better outcomes for children. Quality early learning experiences for our underserved and at-risk children can help to lower the achievement gap by improving school readiness. We hope that moving the bill forward with a minimum of at least level funding will be another step toward building broader access opportunities for all children in Hawaii regardless of family income or circumstance. But first, we recognize the primacy of meeting the needs of underserved *keiki*.

We urge the committee to consider the bill favorably.

Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Chair, Early Learning Advisory Board

**SB844**

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Acosta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 25, 2015

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Ways and Means Committee and Members of the  
Ways and Means Committee

From: GG Weisenfeld  
Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: SB 844, SD1 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting written testimony regarding SB 844, SD1 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education whose purpose is to establish the Executive Office on Early Learning Prekindergarten Program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning and provided through the Department of Education public schools and public charter schools.

We are both private citizens who are interested in advancing early learning in our state.

We are pleased with the EOEL Prekindergarten program that began serving children during the 2014-15 school year. The teachers have been able to implement high-quality standards, including using individual child assessments, engaging families, and aligning their curriculum with the Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, all of which are linked to positive child outcomes.

We believe that the Executive Office on Early Learning should administer the program as the services are provided through the Department of Education public schools and charter schools. **We therefore support the public early childhood education program described in SB 844, SD1.** In addition, we do not have any objections to the amendments made to the original bill. We urge the committee to pass this bill moving it forward for further consideration.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and concerns.

GG Weisenfeld  
193 Pauahilani Place  
Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui  
724 Prospect Street  
Honolulu HI 96813

**SB844**

Submitted on: 2/23/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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