



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 30, 2024

TO: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: S.B. No. 3087 S.D.1 H.D.1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is committed to expanding early learning opportunities for all keiki across the State and is in **strong support** of S.B. No. 3087 S.D.1 H.D.1.

The intention of this bill is to expand public-private partnerships for all young keiki by administering programs in existing vacant public spaces. Presently, section 302L-1.7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), authorizes EOEL to administer pre-plus programs through private-public partnerships on Department of Education (HIDOE) public school campuses. S.B. No. 3087 S.D.1 H.D. 1 would expand access to affordable early learning programs through offering potentially more cost-effective spaces by allowing programs to be administered on other public properties in addition to HIDOE campuses. **This measure does not require funding or fiscal support.**

We would also like to note that this bill utilizes the terminology "early learning", rather than "pre-plus", as "early learning" is already defined in section 302 L-1, HRS. This bill also does not require any funding or fiscal support.

As EOEL continues to expand the EOEL public prekindergarten program, it is critical to also focus on expanding community-based options as these programs are necessary to meet families' unique needs and demands. Community-based programs offer services that may be longer in duration, assisting families who work traditional and non-traditional hours; culturally and linguistically based; provided in a home-setting, which may be more comfortable or preferred by families; or may accept younger children from birth onward.

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We appreciate the Legislature's continued investments to our youngest keiki and families and respectfully request the committee pass this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.



SB3087 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
House Committee on Finance

April 2, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS and offers comments** on SB3087 SD1 HD1, which expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

OHA is in its fourth year of its 15-year strategic plan, Mana i Maui Ola. The development of this strategic plan included gathering community input via surveys and focus groups as well as mana‘o from internal staff. **One of the most critical needs that our community repeated was ‘ohana’s ability to provide high-quality keiki and kūpuna care.**

SB3087 will support the state’s ongoing efforts to expand early childhood care and education. In 2020—the same year our strategic plan began—the State Legislature passed Act 46 setting a vision for 100% access to early learning opportunities. We believe this measure is one component that will help the state both achieve the Legislature’s vision and meet the needs that OHA has identified for the Hawaiian people.

The Pre-Plus Program has been an important piece of the early learning puzzle, allowing community-based Head Start providers to offer early learning programs on public school campuses. OHA sees this bill as having the potential to expand the impact of a program like Pre-Plus. It sets the tone to prioritize the development of early learning programs in facilities, and it adjusts the existing pre-plus statute to have the possibility for greater reach. The inclusion of other public properties will provide the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) the authority to work beyond public schools to realize its obligations for universal access.

OHA would also like to respectfully remind the State Legislature of the state’s obligations to steward crown and government lands, also known as ceded or public land trust lands. Our understanding of this measure is that it will provide facilities for low- or no-cost to community-based providers. This is consistent with the way **early childhood**



SB3087 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hosue Committee on Finance

care and education must be seen as a public good. We support these lands being used for this purpose rather than for the purpose of generating revenue. We would also like to ensure that the implementation of this expanded program taking careful precautions not to allow for the alienation of any public property that may be part of the public land trust.

OHA believes this program can be an integral component to the State's efforts to actualize Act 46 (SLH 2020). We respectfully request the committee **advance SB3087 SD1 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/02/2024

Time: 04:00 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 3087, SD1, HD1 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.

Purpose of Bill: Expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is providing testimony in support of SB 3087, SD1, HD1.

Studies have shown that quality early learning opportunities have a lifelong positive impact on Hawaii's keiki and their families. These learning environments offer keiki a critical first step toward social and emotional skills, motor development, math, literacy, and critical thinking. Early learning opportunities also provide parents and caregivers a chance to work outside the home when their young ones have safe and nurturing environments to spend their day.

Over the last several months, the Department has been working collaboratively with the Lieutenant Governor, the School Facilities Authority, and other public and private stakeholders to renovate and upgrade existing public school facilities to increase the number of public early learning classrooms. Expanding this effort to include other state properties and public lands will no doubt have a positive impact on making access to early education opportunities available to a broader community. The Department looks forward to contributing to and supporting this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 3087, SD1, HD1.

TO: Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice
Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** S.B. No. 3087 SD 1, HD 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: V I A V I D E O C O N F E R E N C E , Conference Room 308

Early Learning Board Position: Support

The Early Learning Board supports the Executive Office on Early Learning’s (EOEL) commitment to expanding early learning opportunities for all keiki across the State and is, therefore, in strong support of S.B. No. 3087 SD 1, HD 1.

The intention of this bill is to expand public-private partnerships for all young keiki by administering programs in existing vacant public spaces. Presently, section 302L-1.7, HRS, authorizes EOEL to administer pre-plus programs through private-public partnerships on Department of Education (HIDOE) public school campuses. S.B. No. 3087 SD 1, HD 1 would expand access to affordable early learning programs through offering potentially more cost-effective spaces by allowing programs to be administered on other public properties in addition to HIDOE campuses.

The Board is confident that EOEL will work collaboratively and effectively with other State agencies that own or oversee these properties to provide early learning spaces, with priority given to communities and areas with limited access to early learning programs and services.

As EOEL continues to expand the EOEL public prekindergarten program, it is critical to also focus on expanding community-based options as these programs are necessary to meet families’ unique needs and demands, while supporting choice. Community-based programs tend to offer services that extend beyond the traditional school day, helping to meet the care needs of families who work traditional and non-traditional hours.

EOEL notes in its testimony this bill would utilize the terminology “early learning”, rather than “pre-plus”, as “early learning” is already defined in section 302 L-1, HRS. This bill also does not require any funding or fiscal support

The ELB appreciates the on-going support from the Legislature to expand access to quality early learning for Hawaii’s keiki. We strongly support this measure and respectfully ask that S.B. No. 3087, SD 1, HD 1 be passed. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

April 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3087 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.**

Hearing: April 2, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure and defers to the Executive Office on Early Learning for implementation.

PURPOSE: This bill expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1).

The Senate Committee on Education (SD1) amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The House Committee on Education (HD1) amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Department supports the expansion of early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides the Department of Education public school campuses since

April 1, 2024

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it may provide more opportunities for families to access child care throughout the State. DHS will work with the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and child care providers who are authorized to use and occupy the public school facilities and other available public properties should they be required to be licensed by DHS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN. M.D.
GOVERNOR



CATHY K. IKEDA
CHAIRPERSON

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

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

FOR: SB3087, SD1, HD1 Relating to Early Learning
DATE: April 2, 2024
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Finance
ROOM: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D., Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 3087 SD1, HD1** which Expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

The Commission supports this measure in its most recent form, amending HRS 302D-35 subsection (b) to read as follows: (b) Each department shall provide notice to the superintendent and the commission identifying suitable unused facilities that may be appropriate for: (1) Public charter schools; and (2) Early learning programs that are affiliated with a public charter school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Committee on Finance
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

April 2, 2024

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

We support SB 3087 SD1 HD1, which expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides DOE campuses.

Expansion of early learning programs beyond DOE properties is an innovative and effective way to use State properties that are underutilized or are in locations where early learning programs can grow. This legislation aligns with Act 46, which created a goal to expand preschool access to all 3- and 4-year-olds by 2032.

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 for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE’E Coalition Director



Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21

Alliance for Place Based Learning

American Civil Liberties Union

Atherton YMCA

Education Institute of Hawai'i

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawai'i

*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 Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

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

* Youth Service Hawai'i

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

To: House Committee on Finance

Re: SB 3087 SD 1 HD 1 – in strong support

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Tuesday, April 2, 2024; 4:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3087 SD 1 HD 1 relating to Early Learning.**

Early childhood education is a crucial foundation for lifelong learning and success. Research consistently demonstrates that children with access to high-quality early learning programs are more likely to excel academically, exhibit better social skills, and experience improved long-term health and economic well-being outcomes. By extending early learning opportunities to state-owned properties and public lands, we can reach a broader and more diverse population of young learners and create equitable access to early learning opportunities across Hawai'i.

This thoughtful approach enhances educational outcomes and can strengthen community engagement and collaboration. By involving various stakeholders, including local communities, non-profit organizations, and businesses, we can create a network of support that extends beyond traditional educational settings. This collaborative approach will enrich children's learning experience and foster a sense of shared responsibility for their well-being and development.

HCAN Speaks! urges the committee to consider this proposed bill's long-term benefits and positive impact on our state's early learning efforts and the well-being of our young keiki and communities. Utilizing existing buildings on state-owned properties and public lands is a visionary step towards creating a more inclusive, innovative, and effective early learning system that is cost-effective to the state, early learning programs, and, most of all, our families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this critical issue. **Please pass SB 3087 SD 1 HD 1.**

Mahalo,

Chevelle Davis, MPH

Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy



Date: April 1, 2024

To: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support for **SB3087 SD1 HD1**, 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 strongly supports passage of SB3087 SD1 HD1, which would expand access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

High-quality early care and learning programs are fundamental to providing children with dependable, nurturing relationships, safe environments, and stimulating experiences that are critical for brain development and school readiness. Experiences in high-quality early care and learning programs can lead to improved educational, economic, health and well-being outcomes for children, lasting into adulthood. Hawaii, however, faces a significant shortage of early care and learning programs, with only one program space for every four children under the age of six.

SB3087 SD1 HD1 would support the State's commitment to increasing access to early learning programs by allowing for the use of space for early learning programs beyond HIDOE campuses to other, existing vacant public spaces. This expansion of options will help facilitate growth of a larger spectrum of early care and learning programs to better meet the unique needs and preferences of children and families, such as the needs for full-day, full-year programs, or programs for infants and toddlers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB3087 SD1 HD1**. With the limited availability of quality early care and learning seats we strongly support the bill's proposal to expand available options and increase access to early learning opportunities for a wider range of children.



Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Finance

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Date: April 2, 2024

Where: Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: SB 3087, SD1, HD1, Relating to Early Learning

E ka Luna Ho‘omalua Yamashita, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Kitagawa, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka‘āinana, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** SB 3087, SD1, HD1, which expands access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

The pivotal enactment of Act 46 (2020) set Hawai‘i on the important pathway of ensuring that every three- and four-year-old has access to early learning by the year 2032. As of September 2023, according to the data aggregated by Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS), Hawai‘i childcare providers reported their capacity to care for keiki between birth and age 5 at 19,983 seats. However, this is still 16% below pre-pandemic levels.

In the Hawai‘i Early Learning Needs Assessment (2017), center-based program directors listed the lack of space or appropriate facilities as the most common barrier to increasing the number of seats in their classrooms for three- and four-year-old keiki across Hawai‘i. By expanding access to early learning programs on state properties and public lands, more seats can be made available. Our keiki cannot afford to lose any more opportunities. **Please advance this measure.**

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

‘A‘ohe ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou. There is no success without preparation.

SB-3087-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 11:47:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2024 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'ale'a Kyrstin Hanawahine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

My name is Ka'ale'a Hanawahine and I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SB3087, which would expand access to early learning programs on other state properties and public lands besides Department of Education public school campuses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.