



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

March 8, 2024

**TO:** Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

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

**SUBJECT: Measure:** S.B. No. 3087 S.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.

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 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.**

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.

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.

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:** 03/12/2024

**Time:** 02:30 PM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 3087, SD1 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. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

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

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.



**SB3087 SD1**  
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
House Committee on Education

March 12, 2024

2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 309

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS and offers comments** on SB3087 SD1, 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**  
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
Hosue Committee on Education

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**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**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

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

TRISTA SPEER  
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

March 11, 2024

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 12, 2024, 2:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 309, 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 (SD1).

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

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 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.



Committee on Education  
Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

March 12, 2024

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

We support SB 3087 SD1, 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*

To: House Committee on Education

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

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309

March 12, 2024; 2:30PM

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, 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 relating to Early Learning.**

Early childhood education is a crucial foundation for lifelong learning and success. Research consistently demonstrates that children who have 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 the long-term benefits and positive impact of this proposed bill 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.**

Mahalo,

Chevelle Davis, MPH

Director of Early Childhood & Health Policy



Date: March 10, 2024

To: House Committee on Education  
Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support for **SB3087 SD1**, Relating to Early Learning

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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**, 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** 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**. 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.

**TO:** Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice  
Chair  
House Committee on  
Education

**FROM:** Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 3087 SD 1 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
**Time:** 2:30 pm  
**Location:** VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 309

**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.

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 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 be passed. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.



# Kamehameha Schools®

House Committee on Education

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Date: March 12, 2024

Where: Conference Room 309

## TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona  
Kamehameha Schools

### RE: **SB 3087, SD1, Relating to Early Learning**

E ka Luna Ho‘omalū Woodson, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalū La Chica, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao 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, 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.

**LATE**



**S E A C**  
**Special Education Advisory Council**  
**1010 Richards Street Honolulu, HI 96813**  
**Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129**  
**email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov**

March 12, 2024

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Martha Guinan, *Chair*  
Ms. Susan Wood, *Vice Chair*

Ms. Sara Alimoot  
Ms. Kathie Awaya  
Ms. Virginia Beringer  
Ms. Mary Brogan  
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman  
Ms. Annette Cooper  
Ms. Shana Cruz  
Mr. Mark Disher  
Ms. Mai Hall  
Dr. Kurt Humphrey  
Ms. Melissa Johnson  
Ms. Tina King  
Ms. Jennifer Leoiki-Drino  
Ms. Dale Matsuura  
Ms. Cheryl Matthews  
Dr. Paul Meng  
Ms. Kiele Pennington  
Mr. Christopher Pelayo  
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Mr. Steven Vannatta  
Ms. Lisa Vegas  
Ms. Jasmine Williams

Ms. Helen Kaniho, *liaison to  
the Superintendent*  
Ms. Wendy Nakasone-Kalani,  
*liaison to the military  
community*

Amanda Kaahanui, Staff  
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Committee on Education  
Hawaii Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 3087, SD 1 - RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Dear Representative Woodson and members of the Committee,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, **supports** SB 3087, SD 1 which expands access of early learning programs to other state properties and public lands besides public school campuses.

Numerous research studies have shown the long term benefits of quality early childhood education programs for students with and without disabilities, including higher high school graduation rates, lower grade retention and drop out rates, and greater social and emotional maturity. There is also ample evidence that access to quality preschool programming can lessen referrals for special education services by providing prevention and early intervention strategies to meet students' diverse needs.

SB 3087, SD 1 has the potential to expand early childhood education programs, as well as community-based programs that may offer a combination of education and child care options to meet the needs of working families. Increasing the availability of these quality early learning programs will also create more opportunities for young children with disabilities to have their school readiness needs met in inclusive settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Respectfully,

  
Martha Guinan  
Chair

**LATE**

3.12.2024

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

To Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair, Rep. Trish La Chica, Vice Chair and Committee Members;

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

To Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of **SB2476 Relating to Dental Hygienists** and am pleased that the bill is continuing to advance and is under consideration. I am a dental hygienist, licensed in Wisconsin since 1982, who has relocated to Hawaii. I currently work for Easterseals as a Case Coordinator for the Home and Community Based Services program. I am also a member of the Hawaii Dental Hygienists' Association and a member of the Hawaii Oral Health Coalition who both are in support of the bill. Hawaii has excellent examples of dental hygienists working in community settings to provide oral health services in the community. This bill making changes to the Hawaii Dental Practice Act will remove barriers to care and expand the reach of school-based sealant programs to more children of Hawaii.

From 2000-2010, served as a Dental Hygienist/Dental Health Program Coordinator to disseminate a school-based sealant program as part of the Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile program. The work I provided is similar to what is described in this bill. Our program conducted dental sealant programs in 14 elementary schools. We screened an average of 1,000 students in targeted grades annually and placed 10,000+ sealants and fluoride varnish treatments in school-based settings during that time. I also provided EDPST dental screening and fluoride varnish applications for five Head Start centers.

Evidence-based oral health practice has highlighted the benefits of school-based sealants. Other benefits that were realized in our program were similar to experiences of my colleagues:

- For many children, the dental sealant program was the child's first dental visit. This was at the time that *Best Practice* oral health guidelines were being developed for a child to visit a dentist before their first birthday or eruption of their first tooth.
- Many children served used a language other than English as their primary language. This provided a barrier to parents not benefitting from messaging provided through the school and Women Infant and Children (WIC) clinics about anticipatory guidance for oral health practices. This enabled English as Second Language (ESL) teachers to assist in our work with the children, translation of materials that were made available to families and the ability for ESL teachers to provide technical assistance for families during the school-based program and further with transition to dental offices.
- Decrease in the prevalence of dental caries in the teeth receiving sealants and other teeth in the dentition due to decrease in oral health bacteria.
- The dental sealant program created a positive peer experience for students with dental anxiety and provided an opportunity to gain confidence to visit a dentist in another setting since they had a good first experience at school.
- The ability for the dental school program to spend additional time with students with special health care needs to accomplish placement of dental sealants. The program often

received referrals from private dental offices for requests to work with a student that was not able to complete dental sealant placement in a private setting.

- As a dental hygienist employed by a public health department, the dental sealant program was an extension of the school health nursing program. The school nurse had resources to provide triage and referral services to extend the care with transportation, wrap around services etc.
- Collaboration with local dentists provided care for unmet dental needs for students that presented during the school dental sealant program for teeth not selected to receive dental sealants. This often resulted in returning to primary care dental offices after a gap in care or establishing care with a dentist provider for the student participating in the dental sealant program and often for their siblings or other members of the family.

Passage of the bill will have positive effects for the students, their family, and the entire community.

Mahalo for consideration of this bill.

Anne Hvizdak, BSDH, CDHC  
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