



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. 3305 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

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 supports S.B. No. 3305 and defers to the Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission.

In addition to EOEL Public Prekindergarten programs, Charter schools also offer prekindergarten classrooms and opportunities. Supporting the expansion of these programs will assist the State in effectuating its goals to expand access to all 3- and 4-year-old children by 2032.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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: SB 3305 Relating to Education
DATE: March 12, 2024
TIME: 2:30 P.M.
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference
FROM: Ed H. Noh, Ed. D, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to offer **SUPPORT on SB 3305** which amends Chapter 302D, the statutes governing public charter schools, by adding a new section applicable to Prekindergarten-only public charter schools. This section provides clarification on what sections of Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Prekindergarten-only schools are exempt from. This measure is similar to **HB 2578 HD1** which was passed by the House and crossed over to the Senate.

For clarification, Prekindergarten-only public charter schools are public charter schools that only serve prekindergarten students and have no K-12 students. At its January 2024 general business meeting, the Commission approved the first Prekindergarten-only public charter school, PACT Parkway Villages Preschool.

The Commission is available to work with this committee, the DOE, and our public charter schools in moving this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



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 3305, which exempt public charter schools that offer exclusively prekindergarten programs from various requirements applicable to other public charter schools.

Prekindergarten-only public charter schools are an innovative way to expand access to quality early learning opportunities, which is the goal of Act 46. We support the testimony of the Hawaii State Charter School Commission on this measure.

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 3305 – 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 3305 relating to Education.**

Investing in early childhood education is crucial to fostering a more equitable future. Research consistently demonstrates the long-term benefits of early childhood education in fostering academic achievement, social-emotional development, and lifelong success.

This bill is a critical opportunity to create more access to much-needed, community-based prekindergarten programs across the state, thereby expanding access to high-quality early childhood education for our keiki. This bill allows for developing innovative approaches that meet the diverse needs of young learners and their families, ultimately enhancing the overall quality and effectiveness of prekindergarten education within the charter school sector. This proactive approach addresses the immediate need for increased access to prekindergarten education and lays the groundwork for continued expansion and innovation in the years to come.

Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to improving access to early learning for all of our keiki. **Please pass SB 3305.**

Mahalo,

Chevelle Davis, MPH

Director of Early Childhood and Health Policy



**Parents And
Children Together**

**BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST**

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3305

TO: Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair La Chica & Members,
House Committee on Education
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
DATE: March 12, 2024 at 2:30 PM

Parents And Children Together (PACT) supports SB 3305 Relating to Education, which requires all public charter schools that offer prekindergarten programs exclusively to adhere to the provisions of chapter 302D, HRS, with certain exceptions that align with the distinction between prekindergarten and other levels of education. PACT is aligned with the State Public Charter School Commission in establishing exemptions from certain sections of Chapter 302D as drafted in SB 3305 for prekindergarten only public charter schools.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs. Notably, PACT has decades of experience serving the community through Head Start prekindergarten classrooms.

In 2023, the opportunity to participate in the Ready Keiki initiative by applying for a prekindergarten only public charter school became available and in January 2024, PACT's application was approved. PACT Parkway Villages Preschool will offer four public prekindergarten classrooms, increasing access to quality pre-k education and building on PACT's many years of Head Start experience. We are currently working with the Commission to complete pre-opening assurances for the school.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.