



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

February 3, 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:** H.B. No. 2578 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m  
**Location:** Conference Room 309

**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 H.B. No. 2578 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)**

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FOR: HB 2578 Relating to Early Education  
DATE: February 6, 2024  
TIME: 2:00 P.M.  
COMMITTEE: Committee on Education  
ROOM: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
FROM: PJ Foehr, Interim Executive Director  
State Public Charter School Commission

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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 HB 2578** 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 the charter school statutes Prekindergarten-only schools are exempt from.

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 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.