

Written Only

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 04/01/2015

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

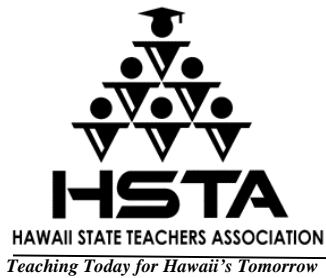
Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0821, HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, to clarify the respective roles of the Department of Education and the Executive Office on Early Learning. (HB821 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports HB 821 HD1. The Department recognizes the importance of early childhood education, as well as its impact upon our children's future outcomes and the state's economic growth.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015

RE: HB 821, HD1 – EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AMENDING
CHAPTERS 302A AND 302L

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair Ron Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports H.B. 821, H.D. 1**, relating to early childhood education.

HSTA has long supported the early childhood education and agrees with the changes to Chapters 302A and 302L that utilizes federal funding for the education of children from birth to kindergarten.

HSTA took the position in 2014 that “early childhood education programs (preschool and kindergarten) should provide students with learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate...” Developmentally appropriate curriculum at an early age will equip the preschooler for a successful kindergarten experience.

HSTA support of H.B. 821, H.D. 1



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 821 HD1 RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 821 HD1, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, to clarify the respective roles of the Department of Education and the Executive Office on Early Learning.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, 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 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.



Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Relating to House Bill 821 House Draft 1
Testifying in Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kouch, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **strongly supports HB821 HD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education**, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, to clarify the respective roles of the Department of Education and the Executive Office on Early Learning.

This bill is an important housekeeping measure that clearly defines early childhood education as “a developmentally appropriate early childhood development and education program from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.” The definition is good because it not only sets the boundaries between the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and the Department of Education, but also because it ensures the term is used consistently throughout the statute.

It also clarifies that EOEL has the authority to expend federal funds, which will allow it to leverage federal grants and other moneys for the purpose of early childhood education.

For these reasons, we support HB821 HD1 and urge your support for its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Stephanie Ohigashi
Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hawai'i

And The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



April 1, 2015

TO: Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Ron, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for HB 821 HD1: RELATING TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
Hearing: April 1, 2015 at 1:30 PM, Conference Room 211

Good Beginnings Alliance is in support of HB 821 HD1, an important housekeeping measure relating to early childhood education.

Good Beginnings Alliance is Hawaii's leading independent, policy and advocacy non-profit organization on children's health, education and safety. We build a united voice to educate and advocate for Hawaii's children.

This measure will correct two critical issues:

1) It defines "early childhood education" as "a developmentally appropriate early childhood development program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten." This is important to ensure proper boundaries between the role of Executive Office on Early Learning and the role of Department of Education for K-12 instruction.

2) It clearly defines that the Executive Office on Early Learning has the authority to use and expend federal funds for the purpose of early childhood education.

These housekeeping measures are critical to insure that the Executive Office on Early Learning is able to function effectively and serve our youngest children.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge members of the committee to pass this bill.

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

April 1, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB821 HD1, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

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.

We support the changes being proposed in HB821 HD1 relating to early education, in particular, the change in the definition of "early childhood education" to mean a developmentally appropriate early childhood development and education program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten. We understand that currently there are some definitions that say from birth to age eight, which becomes confusing because it overlaps with the Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) system. The change would allow clarity in statute, and allow for more efficient and effective handling of early education programs.

We also recommend the Act to be effective upon its approval.

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
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.*



PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Monday, March 16, 2015 at 1:15 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 229**

Testimony in support of HB821 HD1, Relating to Early Childhood Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of HB821, which is an important housekeeping measure relating to early childhood education. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including low-income families with young children in the home. ***We note that this bill is similar in nature to SB843, with no substantial changes in the language.***

HB821 addresses two critical issues:

- Defines “early childhood education” as “a developmentally appropriate early childhood development program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten.” This is important to ensure proper boundaries between the role of Executive Office on Early Learning and the role of the Department of Education for K-12 instruction.
- Clearly defines that the Executive Office on Early Learning has the authority to use and expend federal funds for the purpose of early childhood education.

Once again, PHOCUSED urges your support for this bill. These measures are critical to ensure that the Executive Office on Early Learning functions effectively to serve Hawaii's keiki. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

April 1, 2015

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

From: GG Weisenfeld

Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: HB 820 HD2 SD1 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education
HB821 HD1 Relating to Early Childhood Education

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting testimony in **support** of HB 820 HD2 SD1 Relating to Public Early Childhood Education and HB 821 HD1 Relating to Early Education. HB 820 HD2 SD1's 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. The purpose of HB 821 HD1 is to clarify the respective roles of the Department of Education and the Executive Office on Early Learning.

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

We have previously testified in support of SB 844 which is a companion bill for HB 820. HB 820 HD2 SD1 is very similar to SB 844 SD2. There are a few differences in definitions and drafting, however both statutorily create the public pre kindergarten program that will be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning.

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 with the services provided through the Department of Education public schools and charter schools. **We therefore support the public early childhood education program described in HB 820 HD2 SD1 and in SB 844 SD2.**

With regards to HB 821 HD1 except for the defective effective date we support the HD1 draft.

We urge the committee to pass both bills so that the few differences between the House and Senate drafts can be resolved by a conference committee.

Thank you for your support in advancing early learning in Hawaii.

GG Weisenfeld

193 Pauahilani Place

Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui

724 Prospect Street

Honolulu HI 96813