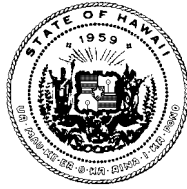




# SB 64 SD1

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES.
Report Title:	School Readiness; Preschool Open Doors Program; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Makes appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program. (SD1)
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	HSH/EDU, WAM
Introducer(s):	ENGLISH



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 18, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 64 SD1 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, February 19, 2015; 1:25 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 64 SD1 is to make appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the Preschool Open Doors program and for subsidies for the program.

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill provided that its passage cannot replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. The DHS offers the following comments.

Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, established the existing child care assistance program, called Preschool Open Doors (POD), as the statewide school readiness program and that the program will be administered by the DHS. Act 169 is codified as section 346-181, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The POD program currently serves low to moderate income families whose children will be eligible for kindergarten in the following school year.

The DHS expanded the POD program this state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 to cover nearly

1,300 children. The total budget for SFY 2015 is \$7.6 million, of which \$1.6 million in the DHS' base budget, HMS-305. The POD expansion funds in the amount of \$6,000,000 were provided for SFY 2015 to serve up to an additional 1,050 eligible children. Until SFY 2014, the POD program served 315-320 children utilizing \$1.6 million in the base budget. The DHS also received \$440,000 for SFY 2015 for administrative costs to implement the expansion of POD services for three positions and to contract POD services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
Website: [www.auw.org](http://www.auw.org)



**Aloha United Way**

## Cover Sheet

**Testifying Agency:** Aloha United Way  
Norm Baker, Chief Operating Officer

**Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing**  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

**Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 1:25 P.M.**

**Conference Room 016**

**SB 64, SD1: Relating to Human Services: Testimony in Support**

## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
Website: [www.auw.org](http://www.auw.org)



February 18, 2015

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Re: SB 64 Relating to Human Services – **SUPPORT**  
Hearing: Thursday, February 19, 2015; Room 016; 1:25 PM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way **strongly supports** SB 64 which continues the funding for the Preschool Open Doors program.

POD provides critical subsidies for income-eligible families sending their children to a licensed preschool during the school year prior to kindergarten entry. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children.

Studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB 64 is the first step to provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

Please restore \$6 million for the POD program operated by the Hawaii Department of Human Services in HB 500 – Relating to the State Budget. This program has been in existence since 1990 and has provided a valuable lifeline for hundreds of families every year.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of SB 64.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norm Baker".

Norm Baker  
Chief Operating Officer

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 64, SD1, Relating to Human Services -- Hearing February 19,  
2015 at 1:25 PM, Conference Room 016

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Dear Legislators:

As the director of Seagull Schools, I am extremely concerned that the Preschool Open Doors Program may cease to exist as the result of not being funded. The value of early education as a positive factor in determining a child's potential development is well recognized. As our legislators consider the various means for developing a state funded program for four year old children, I hope they will see the significant advantages POD has for children, their families and tax payers over programs developed in the D.O.E.

For children there is the benefit of being in a licensed, developmentally appropriate facility with other children of mixed socio-economic backgrounds. For families, there is the type of support which allows them to be employed. Unlike D.O.E. programs for four year olds that operate six hours a day for only 180 days a year, most POD providers operate 240 days a year for at least 10 hours a day. The POD programs also operate in a large variety of locations that might not have D.O.E. preschool programs. For tax payers, the fiscally responsible choice is to fund early education through a Preschool Open Doors where the cost per child comparisons significantly demonstrate the value of POD.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Larson  
Seagull Schools



1806 So. King Street | Suite 30 | Honolulu, HI 96826 | (808)942-4708 | FAX (808)955-2739 | [haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org)

Committee on Human Services and Housing

Committee on Education

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

SB 64 SD 1– Relating to Human Services

Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) has 800 members statewide. Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0-8) and their families.

HAEYC strongly supports SB 64 SD 1, assuring funding of Preschool Open Doors. This subsidy program provides important aid to families as they seek high quality early childhood development and care programs statewide. It is a concrete demonstration of the state's commitment to optimal early childhood development. Healthy children and families provide a strong foundation for communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

*Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawai'i's young children (0-8) and their families.*

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HSH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [bsanada74@gmail.com](mailto:bsanada74@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Feb 19, 2015 13:25PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 4:20:46 PM

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**SB64**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HSH/EDU on Feb 19, 2015 13:25PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca McGuire	Olivet Baptist Preschool	Support	Yes

Comments: Dear Senator Chun-Oakland, Senator Green, Senator Kidani, Senator Harimoto and respected members of the Committee on Human Services and Housing and respected members of the Committee on Education, My name is Rebecca McGuire and I serve as the Preschool Director of Olivet Baptist Preschool. Preschool Open Doors has been a valuable service to families in the area our preschool serves. This area, McCully-Moilili, serves a large number of ESL students whose parents use POD to be able to put their children into a English language preschool that works with this population on speech and communication as well as social-emotional, large and small motor and the overall development of the child. Children who have been served by the POD program, we have been able to catch early identification of possible speech delays and enable services for them that might have been serviced to them at a later date if the problem had gone unnoticed while at a home based setting. This POD program has enabled children who were left behind by the new Kindergarten cutoff date to receive a preschool education that they might otherwise have since their parents had only budgeted for two years rather than three. I encourage you to continue funding POD at the current level of 6 million into the Governor's budget so that families in need of this funding may continue to receive it. Thank you for your time.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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

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*Darcie Scharfenstein*  
*Alan Shinn*

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Scott Morishige, Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 1:25 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 016**

**Testimony in Support for SB64 SD1, Relating to Human Services**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** for SB64 SD1, which would make appropriations for the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program. 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.

Hawaii has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest poverty rate in the nation according to the U.S. Census Bureau's supplemental poverty measure. As a result, many Hawaii families struggle to afford basic living costs, including housing and child care. According to PATCH, child care is generally the **second highest** cost that Hawaii families pay after rent or mortgage. The Preschool Open Doors program provides much needed subsidies for child care at a licensed facility for 1,284 low-income children across Hawaii in FY 2014-2015.

Without the appropriation provided by this bill, the Preschool Open Doors program may be unable to continue operations for future years. The program is critical because it prioritizes underserved and at-risk children, and promotes school readiness in a state where only 14.5% of children statewide indicate readiness for Kindergarten. If the Preschool Open Doors program ceases to exist, children from low-income families in Hawaii will be less likely to have the strong start to their education that is needed to provide the bridge to a successful college experience/career that will change their family's financial / social tree for generations to come.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly supports SB64 SD1, and urges you to pass this bill out of committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at [admin@phocused-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@phocused-hawaii.org).

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 64, SD1, Relating to Human Services -- Hearing February 19,  
2015 at 1:25 PM, Conference Room 016

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Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Kidani, Vice Chairs Green and Harimoto, Members of the  
Senate Committees on Human Services and Housing and Education:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I currently serve as the chair of the State Early Learning  
Advisory Board (ELAB) composed of 19 public and private members representing state  
departments, the early learning community, philanthropy, and the State university system. On  
behalf of the members of the ELAB, I urge you to support SB64, SD1, to restore \$6 million for  
the Pre-school Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawaii Department of Human  
Services to the State Budget. This program has been in existence since 1990 and has provided a  
valuable lifeline for hundreds of families every year throughout the state.

POD provides critical subsidies for income-eligible families sending their children to a licensed  
preschool during the school year prior to kindergarten entry. Given that we know that child care  
is generally the second largest expense in family budgets after rent and mortgage (PATCH),  
these subsidies broaden access and opportunity to families in need.

The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on  
meeting the needs of the child. During the current year, almost 1300 children are being served  
by the program. If the \$6 million is not restored for the 2015-16 year to operate POD,  
approximately 1,000 children will be denied the opportunity to be served. This will be most  
seriously felt among the underserved and at-risk children of our State.

We appreciate that you are all well-aware of the school readiness advantage of those who benefit  
from POD and, therefore, urge you to move this bill forward. Thank you for the opportunity to  
offer testimony.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, EdD  
Chair, Early Learning Advisory Board

I support access to early childhood education for all of Hawaii's keiki. I believe this bill and funding is critical because of the fact that the Preschool Open Doors program, which provides tuition subsidies for DHS-licensed childcare facilities, was inadvertently left out of the Governor's budget for FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017. Please pass this bill.

Erica Yamauchi  
Honolulu

February 19, 2015

To: Senator Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Human Services and Housing and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on Education and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: GG Weisenfeld

Wimmie Wong Lui

RE: SB 64, SD1 Relating to Human Services

Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Kidani and Members of the Committees:

I, along with Wimmie Wong Lui, am presenting testimony regarding SB 64, SD1 Relating to Human Services whose purpose is to make appropriation for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program.

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

It is critically important that children have access to a school readiness program prior to entering kindergarten. Unfortunately, the cost is prohibitive for many families. Through the participation in the Preschool Open Doors program, over 1250 four-year-old children are able to attend a program that gets them ready for kindergarten. Without the \$6 million dollars and additional administrative funds, which need to be identified by the Department of Human Services, this program would ***not*** be able to operate and these children would ***not*** attend preschool and most likely ***not*** be ready for kindergarten.

We believe it is crucial that this program continues and is appropriately funded. **We therefore support the funding described in SB 64, SD1.** We urge the committee to pass this bill moving it forward for further consideration.

Thank you for considering our thoughts and concerns.

GG Weisenfeld

193 Pauahilani Place

Kailua HI 96734

Wimmie Wong Lui

724 Prospect Street

Honolulu HI 96813

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HSH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sherry.campagna@kamakagreen.com](mailto:sherry.campagna@kamakagreen.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB64 on Feb 19, 2015 13:25PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:39:54 AM

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**SB64**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for HSH/EDU on Feb 19, 2015 13:25PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please do this for our kids! As a foster parent I know what a life changer this could be for the kids in care!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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