



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 1, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Rachael Wong, DrPH, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 064 SD2 – RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES**

Hearing: Thursday, March 2, 2015; 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of S.B. 064 SD2 is to make appropriations to the Department of Human Services 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 (SLH) 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 with funds allocated by Act 169, SLH 2013, to cover approximately 1,300 children to attend licensed

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preschools to support the children's readiness for their kindergarten entry in August 2015. Until SFY 2014, the POD program served 315-320 children utilizing \$1.6 million in the base budget.

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

Senator Tokuda, Chair
Senator Kouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 64, SD2, Relating to Human Services -- Hearing March 2,
2015 at 9:00 am, Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

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, SD2, to restore \$6 million for the Pre-school Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawaii Department of Human Services to the State Budget. Restoration of the funding at last year's level is the goal. 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. And, the need is clear given the 54% increase in POD applications this past year.

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



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Phone: (808) 941-9414
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www.kcaapreschools.org

March 1, 2015

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Christina Cox, M.S. Ed., President
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii

Subject: Strong Support for SB 64 S.D. 2

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 by the Woman's Board of Missions to serve the children of immigrant workers. We serve over 900 children per year in 7 NAEYC accredited preschools on Oahu. **More than 50% of our students are low-income and over 80% go on to attend DOE elementary schools. We manage tuition subsidies from 7 different sources, including Preschool Open Doors (POD), each with its own set of requirements.** We have an \$8 million annual operating budget with 130 employees.

We presently serve the following number of POD-subsidized children by area:

- Kailua-4
- Kalihi-13
- Moiliili-12
- Kakaako-10
- Kahala-5
- Hawaii Kai-1

Preschool Open Doors (POD) is a lifeline for many low and moderate income parents, enabling them to work or attend school while their child is in safe hands. Since the entry age for public school was changed last year another 5,000 children on average, require an additional year of preschool prior to entering kindergarten. Restoring the \$6 million in POD funding that was apparently unintentionally omitted from the Executive budget would help to ensure that at least 1,000 of those 5,000 children negatively impacted by the kindergarten entry age change would get the support they deserve to be prepared to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

I respectfully request that your Committee approves SB 64SD 2 and that you fund POD at the \$6 million level for preschool subsidies as well as provide \$440,000 to fund 3 positions for program implementation.

Please note that while I also serve as Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii which represents more than 90 centers throughout the State I am testifying in full support of this measure today as the President of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a position that I have held for the past 14 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ATHERTON - KAILUA

KUAPA - HAWAII KAI

LAURA MORGAN - KAPALAMA HEIGHTS

MOTHER RICE - MOILIILI

MURIEL - KAKAAKO

NA LEI - KALIHI

WAI-KAHALA - KAHALA





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(808) 969-7512

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Hawaiian Language Online

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

Date of Hearing: 3-2-2015
Time: 9:00am
Location: Conference Room 211

Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization
Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language

Re: SB64, SD2 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES: **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is 'Ekekela Aiona, Executive Director of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB64, SD2.

Please support SB64, SD2, to restore \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawai'i 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.

Our many 'Aha Pūnana Leo families with keiki in the 4-year-old "gap" group – too old for preschool and too young for kindergarten – had to readjust greatly to the new kindergarten age requirement state law. One of the major readjustments for our families was financial in nature due to the additional year the affected keiki would need to be in preschool. For many families, without financial assistance from the Preschool Open Doors program, the only option would have been to have their keiki *not attend preschool for one entire year*. Devastating. In a language revitalization program such as the Pūnana Leo, one year out of preschool would have been detrimental to the overall development of the keiki. With support from POD, though, this readjustment was possible.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo as an organization, too, had to readjust to the new kindergarten age requirement. Our integrated curriculum, teacher training, and program protocol were revamped to meet the needs of the affected keiki. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo also submitted to an external review and received full accreditation under the authority of the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium, the first such early childhood education accreditation done through an indigenous language in the world, in order to prepare to demonstrate quality.

Our families, keiki, teachers and staff complied and did what was needed in order to ensure the interest of our keiki was of the highest priority, which included POD eligibility for our families. When our eligible families were given the wonderful news of POD assistance, a grateful sigh of relief was released.

As a non-profit educational organization, the 'Aha Pūnana Leo is in constant search of funding streams to help our families and their keiki afford preschool. Tuition costs at the Pūnana Leo are kept at an absolute minimum in order to make payments affordable. In spite of this, many of our Pūnana Leo keiki would not be able to attend preschool if not for the POD program.

The possibility that our struggling families may not have the critical lifeline that POD provides is not in the best interest of Hawai'i's families and keiki. In turn, this is not in the best interest of the future of Hawai'i.

Please continue to support Hawai'i's families and keiki by passing SB64, SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this extremely important measure.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. 'Ekekela Aiona', written over the printed name.

M. 'Ekekela Aiona
Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo
96 Pu'uhonu Place
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304



CHILDCARE BUSINESS COALITION

Committed to Quality Education

March 1, 2015

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of Hawai'i

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Parents & Children
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Rainbow Schools

Seagull Schools

Waiānae Coast Early
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Waikiki Community
Center

Liaison:
Christina Cox
2707 So. King St.
Honolulu, HI
96826
(808) 941-9415
ccox@kcaapreschools.org

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

From: Christina Cox, Liaison, Childcare Business Coalition

Subject: SB 64 SD2 3/2/15 9 a.m. CR 211

The Childcare Business Coalition is in strong support of SB 64 S.D.2.

In existence since 1997, the Childcare Business Coalition's (CBC) mission is to promote quality center-based programs which are accessible to all families with young children ages six weeks to 6 years of age and to promote public policies which support that effort. We serve more than 5,000 children daily at more than 90 centers on four islands. The majority of our members' programs are nationally accredited and serve low/middle income families. Collectively we provide more than \$300,000 in tuition assistance to qualifying families every year to supplement the various statewide public and private subsidy programs which are unable to meet on-going demand. Many of us hold fundraisers and/or write grants to local trusts and foundations to support our in-house tuition aid programs. We presently serve more than 200 Preschool Open Doors children.

Research has repeatedly shown that children who participate in a quality school readiness program prior to entering kindergarten have greater success in school and in life.

Preschool Open Doors (POD) is a lifeline for many low and moderate income parents. Since the entry age for public school was changed last year another 5,000 children on average, require an additional year of preschool prior to entering kindergarten.

Prior to SFY 2014 POD served an average 315-320 children with a base budget of \$1.6 million. This year, thankfully the \$6 million expansion funds enabled the program to serve up to an additional 1,050 eligible children who are preparing to enter kindergarten the next Fall. It would be a tragedy to let an administrative oversight which apparently led to the unintentional omission of that additional \$6 million in funding, leave nearly 1,000 children who were adversely impacted by the change in kindergarten entry age, without that critical year of school readiness prior to kindergarten entry.

We respectfully request that your Committee approves SB 64SD 2 and that you fund POD at the \$6 million level for preschool subsidies as well as provide \$440,000 to fund 3 positions for program implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

March 2, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support for SB64 SD2, relating the Preschool Open Doors program.

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 are in support of SB64 SD2, which makes appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program. Having a strong foundation in school readiness not only gives children the advantage to transitioning to the K-12 system, but also can have lasting effects to positive outcomes over the span of a child's lifetime. In 2013, HE'E supported legislation to create Preschool Open Doors, the statewide school readiness program. The Coalition has particularly been concerned about the late-born four year olds, who have not been able to attend public Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 year. We like the fact that Preschool Open Doors prioritizes late born four-year olds as well underserved and at-risk children. We encourage the committee to restore funding to this important early learning program.

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

Center for Civic Education

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

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Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

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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.*



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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

HEARING: Monday, March 02, 2015
9:00 AM
Conference Room 211

FROM: Judith Wilhoite
Family Advocate
It Takes An `Ohana

RE: SB64 – Relating to Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's *It Takes An `Ohana* (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver. I, along with my ITAO Advisory Committee, strongly support SB 64.

Many of our foster children's preschool experience depend on the availability of Preschool Open Doors (POD). Education is a very important factor in bringing them good outcomes. According to the National Working Group on Foster Care and Education's October 2011 report, "Success in school can be a positive counterweight to the abuse, neglect, separation and impermanence experienced by children and youth in foster care.

Please help children without other means to do so participate in a quality preschool experience. It's a wise investment in our future.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 64.

Mahalo nui loa.



March 2, 2015

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

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB 64, SD2:** Relating to Human Services
Hearing March 2, 2015 at 9:00 AM, Conference Room 211

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 64, SD2, to restore \$6 million in funding to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 for the Preschool Open Doors Program.

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.

Restoring the FY 2014-15 level funding to the biennium budget will enable nearly 1,300 children throughout the state gain access to the Preschool Open Doors Program (POD). The program helps qualifying Hawaii families pay subsidized tuition at a DHS-licensed group childcare facility, such as a preschool. POD prioritizes underserved and at-risk children, for the year prior to kindergarten to promote school readiness.

POD also helps to provide subsidies for part-time care for children enrolled in Head Start, a federally funded program that provides quality services to qualifying preschoolers and their families which runs half-days.

If leftover funding is available, POD subsidies may also be awarded to help families with children under four-years-old to gain access to preschool. Keeping access to preschool is critical especially for underserved and at-risk children ages 0-5.

According to the Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment for 2012-13, more than 40% of children entering kindergarten had not attended a pre-kindergarten program and more than 90% of students in Department of Education (DOE) classrooms did not meet benchmarks in all dimensions of school readiness. This trend is alarming, but it can be reversed.

DOE data also shows that one out of three children in Hawaii is not reading at grade level by 3rd Grade. This is a key indicator to high school graduation rates and later success outcomes.

Hawaii ranks second to last out of the most affordable states in the country. Childcare is generally the second largest expense in family budgets after housing costs. The average income of families served by POD is \$33,000 annually. The average preschool cost is \$8,052 in 2012. Since 2013-14, DHS has seen a 54% increase in the number of applications for POD subsidies.

Brain research has proven that the first few years of life are a crucial time for brain development. Brains are built from the bottom up and continue to develop into adulthood. According to a Harvard study on child development, early experiences affect the development of brain architecture, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health. Just as a weak foundation compromises the quality and strength of a house, adverse experiences early in life can impair brain architecture, with negative effects lasting into adulthood.

The research is clear that when children are provided a high-quality early childhood education, they are more likely to succeed academically in school, reach higher levels of educational attainment, have a higher income and even live healthier lives. A study commissioned by GBA in 2008 found more than \$4 in return for every \$1 invested in early childhood education in Hawaii. Preparing our young children to be ready to learn and thrive before they reach kindergarten not only helps to improve their lives as individuals, it improves the lives of our communities.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge committee members to advance this authorizing legislation to restore POD subsidies to the proposed State Biennium Budget this session.



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, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Monday, March 2, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Conf. Rm. 211**

Testimony in Support for SB64 SD2, Relating to Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** for SB64 SD2, 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 5th 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 SD2, 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.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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Testimony in Support of SB64/SD2 Relating to Human Services
TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
March 2, 2015

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Senator Tokuda, Chair; Senator Kouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 64/SD2 RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES

Dear Legislators:

Please 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.

The YMCA promotes the importance of early childhood education in our outreach work in public housing, where caregivers and their young children are invited to a Family Child Interaction Learning program. Through this experience caregivers see the value of quality early learning and the impact this has on the healthy growth and development of their children, and in preparing them to succeed in Kindergarten. Our staff assists families in transitioning their children from our program to a licensed prekindergarten program, and know first-hand that for most of our families this transition cannot happen without POD.

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, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child.

Please support the passage of SB64, SD2 which makes appropriations for necessary positions and the continued implementation of the Pre-School Open Doors Program and subsidies for the program.

Sincerely,

Diane Tabangay
Executive Director of Children's Programs
(808) 541-5470



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Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health
dba First Relationships



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March 1, 2015

Re: SB 64, SD2

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kouchi, Members of the WAM Committee:

I am Gail Breakey testifying on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health in strong support for SB 64, SD2. Access to pre-school is critical for families with young children, particularly on Hawaii where most mothers have to work in order to survive financially.

Pre-school is also important for the social and cognitive growth of young children, and especially low income children who may not live in home environment which are conducive to learning and development of the social and cognitive skills which are important to school success.

Pre-school is critically important for children whose parents are involved with child protective services, children of incarcerated parents and other young children who are exposed to multiple adverse factors including domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse issues of their parents. Interaction with caring adults, the opportunity to socialize with other children their age and exposure to the foundations for learning can make a big difference in the lives of these children, as shown by major studies such as the Perry Pre-school, Ipsilanti and Acebedarian studies.

Pre-school for low income children involves significant economic benefits. Long term follow-up on the Ipsilanti preschool study showed that at age 40, the **pre-school group of low income children were more likely than peers to graduate from high school, have jobs, own their home and less likely to use social services less. In economic terms, one dollar spent on pre-school resulted in savings of \$60-300 per individual by age 60.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.

Gail Breakey, Policy Committee

Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health

SB64

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca McGuire	Olivet Baptist Preschool	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kouchi and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means, My name is Rebecca McGuire and I am the Preschool Director of Olivet Baptist Preschool. I would ask for your support on SB64 SD2 which restores funding for the Preschool Open Doors Program. As a Preschool Director, I have had the opportunity to witness the many families that this program has helped. In the community in which we serve, we have many ESL families and middle to lower socio-economic families which are able to attend our preschool with the help of this program. Many of these children are able to learn English communication skills that allow them to gain a even entry into Kindergarten along with their English-speaking peers. In the 14 years I have been at Olivet, I have seen this program be able to help numerous families every year with gaining an opportunity to attend a preschool in their area. Please restore funding to the Preschool Open Doors program. Thank you.

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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SB64

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Ordenstein	Olomea Inc.	Support	No

Comments: I support SB 64 that prepares children for kindergarten. POD subsidies help Hawaii families pay tuition at any of the State's 627 preschools. My name is Kenneth Ordenstein. I am executive director of Olomea, a non profit formed to provide all young people, particularly Native Hawaiians, leaving foster care the chance to become self sufficient, successful adults.

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

FROM: Jon Shindo, Master's in Social Work Student at UH Manoa and student
intern at PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Monday, March 2, 2015 at 9:00 am in Conference Room 211**

Testimony in Support of SB64 SD2, Relating to Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB64 SD2**, which makes appropriations for the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program.

According to the US Census Bureau, Hawaii has the fifth highest poverty rate in the nation. 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 housing costs. PATCH estimates average preschool cost of \$8,052. For the average family being served by preschool open doors, the cost of preschool is 25% of their \$33,000 income.

As a former case manager at the Lighthouse Outreach Center, emergency homeless shelter in Waipahu, there seemed to be a critical lack of access to affordable child care for those in the low-income bracket. One family in particular was made up of father, mother and two young children, one in elementary school and another of preschool age. The father worked three part time jobs, sometimes 60 hours a week, in hopes of earning enough to save up for down payment and rent for transitional or permanent housing. At this critical juncture in their lives, this family was forced to remain a single-earner household because the mother needed to catch the Bus early in the morning with their children to make sure the older one got to school and then go to a nearby park to watch their youngest child. If they were able to afford to place their child in preschool, the mother may have been able to at least work part time to supplement the families income and accelerate their move into permanent housing.

Again, I **support the passing of SB64 SD2**. Thank you for your time and consideration with my testimony. Please contact me with any questions at 808-722-7585 or jon.shindo@gmail.com.

Respectfully Signed,
Jon M. Shindo

SB64

Submitted on: 3/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard Hall	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Lets take care of our own keikis. Local farmers unite.

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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Susan M. Kim
Attorney at Law
P. O. Box 1853
Kealahou, HI 96750

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

HEARING: Monday, March 02, 2015
9:00 AM
Conference Room 211

FROM: SUSAN M. KIM

RE: SB64 – Relating to Human Services

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am an attorney in Kona and do Guardian Ad Litem work in CWS cases. I strongly support SB 64.

Preschool Open Doors is important to foster families as it provides the financial support to send foster children to preschool.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 64

SB64

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealani Makaiwi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Legislators: Please support SB64, SD2, which restores \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawai'i 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. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child. Mahalo nui for making all the children of Hawai'i a top priority. Please pass SB64, SD2. Sincerely, Kealani Makaiwi

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SB64

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this measure. It might help to keep our keiki in school, and complete their educations.

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SB64

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Malu Johnson Debus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SB64

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kainani Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee Re: Testimony in STRONG Support of SB 64, SD2, Relating to Human Services -- Hearing March 02, 2015 at 9:00AM, Conference Room 211 Aloha Legislators: Please support SB64, SD2, which restores \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawai'i 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. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child. Mahalo nui for making all the children of Hawai'i a top priority. Please pass SB64, SD2. Sincerely, Kainani Medeiros

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SB64

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Talia	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee Re: Testimony in STRONG Support of SB 64, SD2, Relating to Human Services -- Hearing March 02, 2015 at 9:00AM, Conference Room 211 Aloha Legislators: Please support SB64, SD2, which restores \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawai'i 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. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child. Mahalo nui for making all the children of Hawai'i a top priority. Please pass SB64, SD2. Sincerely, Talia Bailey

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SB64

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pualani Kahooohanohano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Legislators, Please support SB64, SD2, which restores \$6 million for the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program operated by the Hawai'i 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 year prior to kindergarten entry. The goal of POD is to promote school readiness for children, and the program focuses on meeting the needs of the child. mahalo.

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