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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2236 on Feb 19, 2014 09:25AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:33:34 AM

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**SB2236**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:25AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B. Richards	Partners In Development Foundation	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**LATE**



February 18, 2014

TO: Chair David Ige  
Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani  
Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Deborah Zysman  
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for SB2236 SD1: RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports SB2236 SD1**, which authorizes the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to enter into agreements with the department of education and charter schools for use of vacant or underutilized classrooms as public preschool classrooms. GBA strongly supports efforts by EOEL, DOE, and charter schools to work collaboratively in this way to extend preschool options to more of Hawaii's children – with an emphasis on at-risk children.

Hawaii remains one of only ten states without a statewide preschool program and SB2236 SD1 provides EOEL with the statutory authority to act in executing its mission to ensure that Hawaii's four-year-olds have the quality early learning experiences they need to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

GBA is in support of **SB2236 SD1** and thanks the committee for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance



46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

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**TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 2236, SD1, RELATING TO EARLY  
LEARNING**

**Senate Committee on Education  
Hon. David Y. Ige, Chair  
Hon. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 9:25 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Honorable Chair Ige and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony in support of SB 2236, SD1, relating to early learning.

According to the National Institute for Early Education Research, Hawaii is among 11 states lacking a state-funded pre-kindergarten program. In 2014, the state's junior kindergarten program will be eliminated, leaving approximately 5,100 late-born four-year-olds without a public preschool option. Parents of these children will be forced to turn to the private education marketplace to find pre-kindergarten services for their children, at an average cost of \$8,640 per year (or \$720 per month). According to the Good Beginnings Alliance, in 2013, the average statewide monthly preschool cost amounts to \$13,680,000. GBA has also put together a sliding funding scale estimating how much money would be needed annually for state-supported 12-month preschool programs for varying percentages of Hawaii's pre-kindergarten population. Their estimates show that 1,200 children (6.3 percent) can be covered at a cost of \$10,368,000; 5,000 (26.3 percent) at a cost of \$43,200,000; 7,500 (39.4 percent) at a cost of \$64,800,000; and 10,000 (52.6 percent) at a cost of \$86,400,000. Notably, in a 2011 report on income self-sufficiency in Hawaii, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism estimated that for parents to afford licensed care for one child, as well as before- and after-school care for a school-aged child, a Honolulu family of four must earn \$61,900 annually. A single working parent, by comparison, would need to earn \$56,400 per year. Sadly,

DBEDT estimates that 27 percent and 77 percent of such families, respectively, fall below the income thresholds necessary for “self-sufficiency.” The situation is, obviously, even more dire for Hawaii's low-wage working families. Therefore, we strongly endorse the governor's proposal to establish 30 preschool classes at public school facilities to serve 640 children from low-income families, ensuring that such children receive that educational preparation they need have successful academic careers. We also encourage lawmakers to appropriate the full \$4.5 million requested by the executive to actualize this effort.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Kris Coffield  
*Legislative Director*



Personal Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
February 19, 2014, 9:25 am  
by, Robyn S. B. Chun

S.B. 2236 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

Honorable Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am testifying in support of 2236, SD1, which allows the EOEL to enter into agreements with the DOE and charter schools in order to use vacant or unused classrooms for public preschool classrooms.

My work as a teacher in preschools and DOE K-1 classrooms, as family child care provider and teacher educator, and my personal experience as a mother of twins, has impressed upon me the importance of providing each child with meaningful and culturally relevant early experiences that foster the child's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development.

Preparing our children for the future means, in part, investing in their well-being, learning and development from the start. This bill and several others are a step forward in enabling our state to create an early learning system that addresses the developmental and learning needs of all of our keiki during the critical first eight years of life. Together they enable us to develop a cohesive early learning system that pools together resources across silos in order to provides access and opportunity for as many children as is possible.

Investing in early learning is sound economic policy (Heckman, 2000; Schweinhart, Montie, Xiang, Barnett, Belfield & Nores, 2005). High quality programs are a primary intervention that has far reaching benefits that extend beyond individual children and families to our broader island community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S.B. 2236.

Sincerely yours,  
Robyn S. B. Chun  
Early Childhood Teacher Educator