



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 30, 2018

TO: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Sam Kong, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 2507 – Relating to Preschools
Hearing Date: January 31, 2018
Time: 2:05 p.m.
Location: Room 309

Purpose of Bill: Makes housekeeping amendments to remove preschools from the superintendent of education's scope of authority and to clarify that the director of the Executive Office on Early Learning may authorize preschool personnel access to a student's immunization registry information.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) supports H.B. No. 2507.

This housekeeping bill would bring statute into conformity with previously enacted legislation that place the responsibility for preschool/pre-kindergarten with what is now the Early Learning Board and EOEL.

Previously enacted statutes include the following:

- Repeal of sections 302A-409 and 302A-410, HRS, which required DOE to develop an early education plan. The same legislation established an early learning system to be developed and administered by the entity now known as the Early Learning Board, which is tasked with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning (section 302L-1.6, HRS, first enacted in 2012);
- Establishment of EOEL to "help the State meet its goal of providing a viable early learning system for the keiki of Hawaii" (Conference Committee Report No. 173 for S.B. No. 2545, enacted as Act 178, Regular Session of 2012), and tasking EOEL with developing a plan for the early learning system (section 302L-1.5, HRS, first enacted in 2012);
- Establishment of the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to be administered by EOEL (section 302L-7, HRS, first enacted in 2015); and

- Transformation of the Early Learning Advisory Board into a governing board, to “empower the Early Learning Advisory Board to take a more active role in directing consistent early childhood development policy and expand the public pre-kindergarten program”, recognizing that “a broad and consistent approach to early childhood development promotes the health and wellbeing of children” (Senate Standing Committee Report No. 1058 for H.B. No. 498, enacted as Act 202, Regular Session of 2017).

The bill would also allow the EOEL Director to ensure compliance with mandatory student immunization requirements.

We believe H.B. No. 2507 further clarifies the Legislature’s intent to charge the Early Learning Board and EOEL with the responsibility for preschool/pre-kindergarten.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

HB-2507

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:20:05 AM

Testimony for EDN on 1/31/2018 2:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kerrie Urosevich | Early Childhood Action Strategy | Support | No |

Comments:

On behalf of the Early Childhood Action Strategy, we support HB2507. This bill is important as it brings statute into alignment with subsequently created statutes that place the responsibility for preschool/pre-kindergarten with the Executive Office on Early Learning. Thank you.



January 30, 2018

LATE

To: Representative Woodson, Chair
Representative Kong, Vice Chair
House Committee on Education

From: Mandy Finlay, Director of Public Policy
Hawaii Children's Action Network

Re: **H.B. 2507– Relating to Preschools**
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309, January 31, 2018, 2:05 PM

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), we are writing in support of H.B. 2507– Relating to Preschools.

H.B. 2507 is a necessary housekeeping bill to bring statute into conformity with previously enacted legislation and allow the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Director to ensure compliance with mandatory student immunization requirements. HCAN respectfully requests that the committee pass this measure, which further reaffirms the Legislature's intent that the Early Learning Board and EOEL be responsible for preschool/pre-kindergarten.

HCAN is committed to building a unified voice advocating for Hawaii's children by improving their safety, health, and education.

Rep. Justin Woodson, Chair
Rep. Sam Kong, Vice Chair
Members of the House Education Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of HB2507---Relating to Preschool, Jan. 31, 2:05 pm, Conference Room 309

Dear Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kong and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I am the retired Head of an independent school in Honolulu which has a pre-K program. Over the past 10 years, I have served as a member of the Early Learning Task Force, the Early Learning Council and the Early Learning Advisory Board, which is now the Early Learning Board. Although not serving as a spokesperson for the ELB, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2507.

This housekeeping bill would bring statute into conformity with previously enacted legislation that place the responsibility for preschool/pre-kindergarten with what is now the Early Learning Board and EOEL; past legislation includes,

Establishment of EOEL to “help the State meet its goal of providing a viable early learning system for the keiki of Hawaii” (Conference Committee Report No. 173 for S.B. No. 2545, enacted as Act 178, Regular Session of 2012), and tasking EOEL with developing a plan for the early learning system (section 302L-1.5, HRS, first enacted in 2012);

Establishment of the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program to be administered by EOEL (section 302L-7, HRS, first enacted in 2015); and

Changing the Early Learning Advisory Board into a governing board, to “empower the Early Learning Advisory Board to take a more active role in directing consistent early childhood development policy and expand the public pre- kindergarten program”, recognizing that “a broad and consistent approach to early childhood development promotes the health and wellbeing of children” (Senate Standing Committee Report No. 1058 for H.B. No. 498, enacted as Act 202, Regular Session of 2017).

HB 2507 helps to clarify the intent of legislation to charge the Executive Office of Early Learning, under the governing authority of the Early Learning Board, to develop a state-wide early learning system with specific responsibility for a preschool and pre-K years.

Thank you again for this opportunity to support HB 2507.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Peters