

HB395

Date of Hearing: March 23, 2009

Committee: Senate Education and
Housing/Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.B. 0395, H.D. 1 (HSCR 0839), Relating to Early Learning

Purpose: Requires any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system for fiscal year 2008-2009 to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) is in full support of H.B. 0395, H.D. 1 (HSCR 0839). In view of the current fiscal situation, this bill will allow the work of the Early Learning Council (Council) to continue, and ultimately ensure that the developmental and early learning needs of young children are equitably addressed throughout the State. However, the Department recommends that two provisions in S.B. 1329, S.D. 2, with the following amendments suggested by the Department and the Council, be incorporated into this bill.

First, the Council is asking that all members of the council be allowed to designate an alternate, in the case that they cannot attend a scheduled meeting. Second, the Council

would like to change the title of the trust fund, from the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund to the Early Learning Trust Fund.

Finally, as stated in the current version of H.B. 0395, the Council is requesting that the unencumbered, unexpended funds in the current appropriation be allowed to lapse into the Early Learning Trust Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

The Department respectfully requests that these provisions be included in H.B. 0395, H.D. 1.

The Department welcomes the opportunity to continue working with its early childhood partners, in both public and private settings, to ensure universal access to quality early learning opportunities. Our collective efforts will help young children to be at optimal levels of readiness for learning, particularly as they make the transition into a K-12 learning system.

As appropriate, the Department respectfully requests that this bill be expedited so that actions may ensure that unexpended and unencumbered funds are secured in the trust fund at the closing of the fiscal year in June 2009.

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 395, H.D. 1

March 23, 2009

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING

House Bill No. 395, H.D. 1, proposes that any Fiscal Year 2009 general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system under Chapter 302L that are unexpended or unencumbered by the end of Fiscal Year 2009 shall lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund on June 30, 2009.

We **oppose** this bill because it will further reduce the amount of funds available for the State's general fund.

Although we support efforts to develop high-quality early learning opportunities, we note that the Department of Education has the authority to carry over up to 5% of any appropriation rather than lapsing unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2007 and Fiscal Year 2008, the Department of Education's general fund carryovers were over \$40 million each year. Normally, any unexpended amounts would have lapsed to the general fund.

In light of the current fiscal crisis, we cannot afford to reduce the State's general fund balance.



HB 395, HD1 Relating to Early Learning
Senate Committee on Education and Housing
Senate Committee on Human Services

March 23, 2009

1:45 pm

Room 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **supports** the purpose and intent of HB 395 HD 1 (HSCR 389), requiring any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

High quality early care and education is not important; it is indispensable. Despite its importance to society, early care and education is severely under funded and uncoordinated- resulting in limited access, mediocre quality, and poor outcomes (Cost, Quality & Child Outcomes Study Team, 1995). When services are not available or are low quality, opportunities for early learning are squandered and worse, children's development may be impaired.

Research has demonstrated that high quality early care and education programs not only lead to school readiness and better developmental outcomes, but to a significant reduction in later expenditures for remediation, prisons, and social welfare programs (Barnett, 1996; Campbell, et al., 2002; Masse & Barnett, 2002; Reynolds, et al., 2001, 2002; Schweinhart, Barnes, & Weikart, 1993). Early care and education is a vital service that provides critical opportunities to enhance healthy child development and school readiness. It is also a family support that supplements parent efforts to raise their children to become productive citizens and lifelong learners. Moreover, early care and education is an industry that has significant positive impacts on the economy and community well-being (M. Cubed, 2002; Rolnick & Grunewald, 2003).

OHA strongly urges and supports passing this measure. It will provide the needed resources for the Early Learning Council to continue their good work in our communities.

Mahalo nui loa for your serious consideration of this testimony.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education and Housing
and Senate Committee on Human Services

Hearing Date: Monday, March 23, 2009
1:45 p.m. – Conference Room 225
HB 395 HD1: Relating to Early Learning

Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer
Kamehameha Schools

Good afternoon Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing. Good afternoon to Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Dee Jay Mailer, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support of HB 395 HD1**, relating to early learning.

Kamehameha Schools supports the efforts of the legislature to enhance the early education opportunities of children across the state through the Early Learning Council. In order for the Council to do its work, it needs resources and therefore Kamehameha Schools strongly supports efforts to prevent any lapse of funding that the Council needs to fulfill its charter.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve 5,400 K-12 students through campus programs on O‘ahu, Hawai‘i and Maui, and 1,485 three-and-four-year-olds at 31 preschool sites statewide. We also provide scholarships to keiki attending other pre-schools and provide funding for child-family interaction programs that have filled a great need in rural communities.

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, the Kamehameha Schools Early Childhood Education (ECE) Division has provided more than 11,000 keiki with their first preschool experience. Early childhood education and parental support is the cornerstone of the Education Strategic Plan adopted in 2005, which seeks to foster long-term intergenerational change in the way Native Hawaiian families approach learning. Research demonstrates that early education is a key factor in lifelong success for all children, and we strongly urge the legislature to promote, enhance and support the efforts of the State of Hawai‘i to appropriately address the needs of Hawai‘i’s pre-kindergarten children.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the legislature, the Department of Education and other public and private stakeholders in the community for the benefit of the children of Hawai‘i.



March 23, 2009
1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
AND HUMAN SERVICES

RE: HB 395 HD1 – Relating to Early Learning

Dear Chairs Sakamoto and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Ihara, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS). On behalf of the Association's 97 member institutions, I am submitting testimony in strong support of House Bill 395, House Draft 1 – Relating to Early Learning, which requires any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

HAIS has long been an advocate for early childhood education and was a staunch supporter of the legislation last session which became Act 14 and authorized the creation of the Early Learning Council. We are pleased that such a body has been founded to address the educational needs of the young children of our state and believe that the work of the Council is not only essential to the development and achievement of students in early learning programs, but is important to learning of elementary and secondary school students as well. We strongly urge the Committee to pass this measure, as it will provide the Council with the much-needed means to continue the good work that it has already begun.

We steadfastly believe that when investments are made in the education of the youngest members of our community – in this case, by allowing the moneys in the trust fund to remain available to the Early Learning Council after the end of the fiscal year – the returns are enormous. We are certain that an increase in the State's overall investment in education will not only positively impact the future success of our keiki, but will produce significant dividends for all of us in Hawaii, for many years to come.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



Hearing date:
Monday, March
23, 2009, 1:45
p.m.
Senate Committee
on Education and
Housing and
Committee on
Human Services
Room 225

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Monday, March 23, 2009, 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Subject: **HB395 HD1: Requires any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop.

We strongly support this bill.

Good Beginnings Alliance has been actively supporting the new Early Learning Council through its different subcommittees. We recognize the importance of continuing this work despite the current state budget challenges. Passage of this bill will allow the Early Learning Council to carry on its work during the next fiscal year. Mahalo for your support.

For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502;
lchun@goodbeginnings.org

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938
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March 16, 2009

Committee on Education and Housing

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee on Human Services

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Monday, March 23, 2009 at 1:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

HB 395, HD1 Relating to Early Learning—Support

Dear Chairs Sakamoto and Chun Oakland, Vice Chairs Kidani and Ihara, and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way encourages your favorable consideration of HB 395, HD1 which allows unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

We thank you for your support of early childhood learning. When children do not succeed in school, they require additional services, are over represented in the juvenile justice system, and fail to achieve the skills necessary to live self-sufficient lives as adults. An early investment in our children will significantly reduce the added cost to society in future years – national studies indicate that a \$1 investment in early childhood development will save \$7 in future costs.

Because HB 395, HD1 will allow essential work in early childhood learning to continue during the upcoming fiscal year, Aloha United Way encourages favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Doyle".

Susan Doyle
President & Chief Professional Officer



INPEACE (Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture)
1001 Kamokila Blvd., #226, Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 693-7222
www.inpeace-hawaii.org

HB395 HD1
RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING
Testimony Presented Before
The Joint Committees on Finance and Education
March 23, 2009 @ 1:45pm in Conference Room 225
by
Kanoë Nāone, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer

“Requires any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system for fiscal year 2008-2009 to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.”

INPEACE **SUPPORTS** the overall intent of this bill and urges the committees to pass it.

INPEACE annually serves more than 2,400 children, parents and community members through its early childhood and workforce development programs on 5 different islands. With more than fourteen years experience providing high-quality, culturally-relevant and developmentally appropriate services to young children, INPEACE understands the critical role the early years (ages 0-8 years) play in the overall development of children. Research continually advocates for adequate, *quality* child-rearing supports in place for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to ensure successful future outcomes for them. These supports are currently disparate, underfunded, and in need of a strong and comprehensive governance structure in the state of Hawai`i.

The creation of the Early Learning Council has been a step toward developing a stable governance structure, but a sustainable funding stream has yet to be created. The Keiki Steps First Trust Fund, also known as the Early Learning Trust Fund, will be a central source of funds specifically geared toward and aimed at developing, enhancing and sustaining quality early childhood education programs and services. This main funding stream will allow early childhood services, from prenatal care to preschool programs, to better align their resources and personnel, cutting back on unnecessary overlap and misallocated funds.

The Early Learning Trust Fund is crucial to maintaining an early learning *system* that can have the capacity to develop, monitor, evaluate and improve the highest quality programs possible for Hawai`i's keiki and future generation. The lapsing of unexpended and unencumbered general funds into the Early Learning Trust Fund will allow a continual stream of funds for continued early education services and the work of the Early Learning Council. On behalf of the families and children we serve, we humbly urge you to pass this measure.

Shelley Ng, Vice President of Public Policy for
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children

Testimony addressed to Senate Committee on Housing and Education and Senate
Committee on Human Services

For hearing on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 1:45 p.m.

HB 395 HD1 Relating to Early Learning

'Ano'ai kakou! Chair Sakamoto, Vice-Chair Kidani, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Education. Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Human Services.

As the vice president of public policy for the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (Hawaii AEYC), I represent 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state. My name is Shelley Ng.

I support the proposed amendment to §302-L5, Keiki First Steps Trust Fund, that would require any unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund. This amendment would allow the Early Learning Council more flexibility and discretion in budgeting for unanticipated changes in projected or actual expenses, thereby increasing prudent budget management.

The staff and board of Hawaii AEYC are most willing to assist the legislature in providing information or strategies that can better inform the decision-making over this proposed amendment. I invite you to contact us at (808) 942-4708.

Hawaii AEYC's 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.

Best wishes during this legislative session.

Monday, March 23, 2009

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: House Bill 395 HD1 Relating to Early Education.

Good afternoon Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Education and Housing. Good afternoon Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services. My name is Bob Peters. I am the Head of Hanahau'oli School and the HAIS designee to the Early Learning Council enacted by the Legislature last year through Act 14. As Chair of the Early Learning Council, I am submitting testimony representing the Council. We **strongly support** House Bill 395 HD1 which requires all unexpended or unencumbered general fund appropriations designated for the State's early learning system to lapse into the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund.

As you know the Early Learning Council is just beginning its operation as authorized by Act 14. It has created a governance structure and designed a Plan of Work which is being supported by sub-committees authorized by the Act. To date the general fund allocation from Act 14 is the sole funding source to support the work of the Council (e.g., hiring of an Executive Director, clerical assistance, transportation from Neighbor Islands, etc.). If not placed into the trust fund, general fund dollars will be lost as of the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2009. After that point, the Council would be left with no funds to support its operation.

The Legislature demonstrated its understanding and support of early learning during its last session by creating the Early Learning Council. The Legislature has charged the Council with creating a comprehensive plan which will take time and require operational funding. While this bill will help us to continue operations and keep the Council functional, it will not address the needs outlined in the Council's work plan. Full funding of the Council's efforts will require additional funding mechanisms from both the private and public sectors.

House Bill 395 HD1 is of critical importance as the Council moves ahead with the charges given to it by Act 14. We all recognize the importance of early learning for our keiki and the need for the Council to be able to move ahead with its work. Applying unencumbered and unexpended funds to the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund will allow the Council to continue its work and contribute to a sustainable Hawaii by investing in our children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of this bill.

Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Council, Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDH Testimony](#)
Cc: lbrauer@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB395 on 3/23/2009 1:45:00 PM
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2009 11:09:52 AM

Testimony for EDH/HMS 3/23/2009 1:45:00 PM HB395

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynne Brauher
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Submitted on: 3/21/2009

Comments: