

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Office of the Governor  
The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 16, 2015

Dear Governor Ige,

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.

The Coalition has been a strong advocate for early learning since our inception in 2010. We have supported early learning legislation for the past few years, and have been particularly concerned about the late-born four year olds, who have not been able to attend public Kindergarten since the 2014-2015 year. We are supporting HB820 and SB844, which establishes a public prekindergarten program to be administered by the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). However, we understand that there has not yet been an appointment for a Director of EOEL. We urge you to make an appointment so that there is clarity on the leadership of early education in the state.

Furthermore, we ask that you support the restoration of funding for the Preschool Open Doors Program, which serves 1300 children in our state. 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. Without your support, \$6 million for this critical safety net program will end on June 30, 2015, which means thousands of children will not be prepared for Kindergarten when they start, including the children who will be almost six years old due to the Kindergarten entry age change.

Thank you for your consideration.

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  
\*Kaho'omiki  
Kamehameha Schools  
Kanu Hawai'i  
\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council  
Keiki to Career Kaua'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
Learning First  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
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.*