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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	Punahou School PUEO Program
After-School All-Stars Hawaii	Teach for America
Alliance for Place Based Learning	The Learning Coalition
*Castle Complex Community Council	US PACOM
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS	University of Hawai'i College of Education
Center for Civic Education	YMCA of Honolulu
Coalition for Children with Special Needs	<i>Voting Members (*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.</i>
*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	