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Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair

March 2, 2015

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support for SB64 SD2, relating the Preschool Open Doors program.

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.

We are in support of SB64 SD2, which makes appropriations for positions and the continued implementation of the preschool open doors program and for subsidies for the program. 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. In 2013, HE'E supported legislation to create Preschool Open Doors, the statewide school readiness program. The Coalition has particularly been concerned about the late-born four year olds, who have not been able to attend public Kindergarten from the 2014-2015 year. We like the fact that Preschool Open Doors prioritizes late born four-year olds as well underserved and at-risk children. We encourage the committee to restore funding to this important early learning program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support of this bill represents a 75% consensus or more of our membership.

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.*