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

March , 2015

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

This testimony is in support of SB866, which makes an appropriation to support the Afterschool Plus 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.

Because of Hawaii's high cost of living, parents and family members are often doing multiple jobs to make ends meet. Afterschool programs such as the A+ Program help lessen the burden on families who are not able to care for their children afterschool due to work. The program also keeps children in a safe place.

We support restoring funding at the Department of Education for the A+ Program back to levels that existed prior to financial crisis. We also support the bill's emphasis on improving content and quality and supporting professional training and evaluation for staff.

We also would like the legislature to consider **amending the eligibility criteria to allow all children to participate**. We have heard from parents who are not currently eligible that they would gladly participate in the program at full price because often times, the A+ Program is the most appropriate afterschool option for their children. With more paying participants, additional revenue could be generated to help support the 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

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| Academy 21 | McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds |
| After-School All-Stars Hawaii | Our Public School |
| Alliance for Place Based Learning | *Pacific Resources for Education and Learning |
| *Castle Complex Community Council | *Parents and Children Together |
| *Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS | *Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i |
| Center for Civic Education | Punahou School PUEO Program |
| Coalition for Children with Special Needs | Teach for America |
| *Faith Action for Community Equity | The Learning Coalition |
| Fresh Leadership LLC | US PACOM |
| Girl Scouts Hawaii | University of Hawai'i College of Education |
| *Good Beginnings Alliance | YMCA of Honolulu |
| Harold K.L. Castle Foundation | <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> |
| *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 | |