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House Committee on Education
Representative Roy Takumi, Chair
Representative Takashi Ohno, Vice Chair

February 4, 2014

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for HB821, which amends or repeals provisions of Chapters 302A and 302L, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as related to early childhood education, for housekeeping and other purposes.

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 support all the changes being proposed in HB821 relating to early education, in particular, the change in the definition of "early childhood education" to mean a developmentally appropriate early childhood development and education program for children from birth until the time they enter kindergarten. We understand that currently there are some definitions that say from birth to age eight, which becomes confusing because it overlaps with the Kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) system. The change would allow clarity in statute, and allow for more efficient and effective handling of early education programs.

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.*