EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING

HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
S.B. 2065, Relating to Health
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 13, 2014
9:30 a.m., Room 211

Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Executive Office on Early Learning is in support of Senate Bill 2065.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Health to convene a task force to collect data to determine:

- Whether there are too many elective pre-term deliveries in Hawaii and, if so, to develop approaches and measures for addressing the issue; and
- Whether a point-of-care newborn screening program is needed in Hawaii.

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) was established by Act 178 in 2012. The creation of EOEL provides government-wide authority to guide the development of a comprehensive and integrated statewide early childhood development and learning system. Since our creation, we have engaged over 100 public and private partners across the state to define the desired outcomes for children and families, as well as the critical strategies that are needed to achieve our collective priorities over the next three to five years.

Improving birth outcomes is one of these key outcomes. In July 2013, Hawaii was chosen by the National Governors Association be part of a National Learning Network to establish a collaborative effort to improve birth outcomes. This effort is well under way with EOEL support and participation.

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EOEL looks forward to our continued work with the Department of Health to improve health and development and early learning outcomes for young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.