**To**: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

 Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

 Members of the Senate Committee On Education

**From:** Robert G. Peters, Chair

 Early Learning Board

**Subject**: **Measure**: SB 1384, Relating to Education

 **Hearing Date**: Friday, February 5, 2021

 **Time**: 3:00 PM

 **Location**: Conference Room 229

**Description**: Provides that the prohibition against serving two consecutive terms not to exceed eight consecutive years pursuant to section 26-34(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not apply to the representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers’ term limit. Repeals on June 30, 2025.

**Early Learning Board Position: Comments**

I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on this bill, HB No. 2094, H.D. 1, on behalf of the Early Learning Board.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. We are composed of members from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors. One of those members is the representative of the Hawaiian medium early learning providers. Hawaii has designated Hawaiian as one of its two official state languages. As such, and to insure the ELB reflects the diversity of the early learning community, the representative for Hawaiian medium early learning providers is a critical member and advocate for the important values of a Hawaiian medium early education.

SB 1384 was introduced following the January Early Learning Board meeting. As a result, ELB has not had a chance to discuss/vote on SB 1384 to date. At its January meeting, the Board supported the intent of the `Aha Punana Leo draft bill (HB 546). The sense of the Board was that the term limit currently in statute was a barrier to continuity of representation that the amended bill would address.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on SB 1348.