**TO:** Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

 Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

 House Committee on Education

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

 Early Learning Board

**SUBJECT: Measure:** HB 2000, HD 1 – Relating to Early Learning

 **Hearing Date:** Friday, February 25, 2022

 **Time:** 11:00 A.M.

 **Location:** Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

**Description:** Appropriates funds to the school facilities authority for the construction of preschool facilities. Effective 7/1/250. (HD1)

**Early Learning Board Position: Support the Intent**

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board, offering testimony in support of the intent of HB 2000, HD 1, which would appropriate funds to the school facilities authority for the construction of preschool facilities.

As the governing board for EOEL, we thank the Legislature for its support of EOEL’s work to increase access to high-quality early learning. EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State’s early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

Act 046, SLH 2020, assigns EOEL the responsibility for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds, which will require expanded facility capacity appropriate for young children. The ELB will support EOEL’s efforts to collaborate with the Authority and HIDOE as it pertains to constructing preschool facilities and classrooms. As does the EOEL, the ELB defers to the authority relating to the provisions in this bill.

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