**To**: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran Vice Chair

Members of the Senate Committee On Ways & Means

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

Early Learning Board

**Subject**: **Measure**: SB 2700 SD 1, Relating to The Early Childhood Registry

**Hearing Date**: Thursday, February 24, 2022

**Time**: 10:00 A.M.

**Location**: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

**Description**: Requires the staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the Department of Huan Services’ Early Childhood Workforce Registry. Requires a report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

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

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony about SB 2700 SD 1 on behalf of the ELB.

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. The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

The ELB is currently engaged in identifying an Institutional Analyst to coordinate the implementation of Act 210, as approved by the Legislature in 2021. Data about the workforce will be critically important to move forward with expansion of access to quality early care and learning in our State and in order to be responsive to individual Island needs and circumstances. Currently we lack the data necessary to understand our child care workforce landscape, which presents a barrier to the ability to create strategic policy to satisfy the obligations of Act 210. Therefore, we are offering testimony supporting the intent of this bill.

The Early Learning Board defers to DHS with regard to the specifics of the bill, particularly with regard to implementation and funding needs

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 2700 SD 1 supporting its intent .