**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 1939, 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 for two positions in the executive office on early learning to enhance capacity and resources for the office. Effective 7/1/2050. (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 1939, HD 1, which would appropriate funds for two positions within the EOEL to enhance the office’s capacity and resources.

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. In addition, pursuant to Act 046, SLH 2020, EOEL is responsible for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds.

The 2 FTE positions would help ensure EOEL has the capacity to achieve the Legislature’s ambitious goal of increasing access to early learning programs and to fulfill the Office’s statutory obligations to administer the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program and coordinate a high - quality early learning system. The positions would aide in fiscal/budget related matters and the creation and implementation of contracts related to expanding early learning programs and services associated with public and privately funded pre - K programs, Pre - Plus child development services, family - child interaction learning programs and systems coordination efforts..

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the intent of HB 1939, HD 1.