DATE:       June 13, 2014

TO:         To Whom It May Concern

From:       Walter Yoshimitsu, Executive Director – Hawaii Catholic Conference
            Mike Rockers, Ed.D., Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Re:         Support of Amendment To Article X, Section 1, Of The Hawaii State
            Constitution To Permit The Appropriation Of Public Funds For
            Private   Early Childhood Education Programs

Providing quality early learning experiences for our keiki in Hawaii is an
important element to their later success in school and life. For this reason, the
Hawaii Catholic Conference and the Hawaii Catholic Schools Office support the
recent movement toward a private-public partnership to provide non-
compulsory quality preschool education in Hawaii.

This November there will be a question on the general election ballot that will
ask voters whether the State Constitution should be changed to allow public
monies to fund private, community-based preschools. If voters approve, the
State will be allowed to contract with these preschools to provide the keiki of
Hawaii with this option for their early learning experience.

We are very concerned about the possibility that State funding may restrict our
own emphasis on our faith permeating all aspects of the curriculum. Under
such circumstances our own schools could not accept such funding.
Nevertheless, even though there are concerns related to the restrictions which
may impede the Catholic Schools of Hawaii from participating in such a private-
public partnership, we support voting to approve this amendment to the State
Constitution.