

musicians and a pastoral clinical psychologist. Central to the growth and development of Saint Peter Church was his comprehensive and balanced vision of 21st century ministry.

Starting in 2002, Dr. Creecy pastored with his father, Rev. Dr. Howard W. Creecy, Sr., at The Olivet Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, where he brought his 21st century ministry innovations, while still standing upon traditional Christian values. While working with his father until his passing, Olivet's membership, ministries, and resources grew exponentially under his leadership as senior pastor.

Dr. Creecy was highly respected in the Christian community, and he was a frequent guest preacher nationwide and internationally. His strong faith and tremendous presence were felt by all around him.

He was involved in numerous civic, social and political activities, serving as chairman of the Atlanta Task Force of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; former chairman of the Board of Directors, Project Re-direction, Atlanta University Criminal Justice Institute; and Founding National Board Member of the Organization of New Equality (ONE), Boston, Massachusetts.

For his numerous endeavours, Dr. Creecy was honored and inducted by Morehouse College into the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel Board of Ministers and was a proud member of the NAACP. He was the first African-American to serve as Director of the Office of Chaplain Services for Atlanta Fulton County Government.

Dr. Creecy leaves behind a devoted family: his loving wife, Yolanda Grier Creecy, their two beautiful daughters, Teresa and Kennedy. On behalf of my wife, Vivian and myself, I want to extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Creecy family.

Dr. Creecy's devotion to God and his church were unsurpassed, and he has left us with a shining example of what a true Christian is. Romans 6:8 says, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." I know that today, Dr. Creecy lives with Christ.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HARVEY
LAWRENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harvey Lawrence and his exceptional service to the public health of his community and his ongoing public service career.

Mr. Lawrence began his career by attaining a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Policy Analysis from Harriman college and SUNY Stony Brook. He is also a graduate of the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Executive Certificate Program.

Mr. Lawrence has been serving in the capacity of President and CEO of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center since January 2009. Before his ascent to President, Mr. Lawrence served as the Corporation's Executive Vice President and COO. Since working with the Brownsville Family Health Center on 1994, Mr. Lawrence has been responsible for most of the new initiatives and expansions the corporation has taken on.

Using his vast experience in public finance and non-profit development, Mr. Lawrence has been able to accelerate the growth of this corporation and provide more services to the public. Mr. Lawrence began his public service career as Management Trainee at the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and quickly gained experience in NYC's Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Lawrence is a former non-profit developer for affordable housing and vice president in the investment banking, public finance and real estate divisions of the former Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank. Using his knowledge, Mr. Lawrence maintains his position as the executive Director of the City's Industrial Commercial Incentive Board and Senior Finance/Development Director at the NYC Public Development Corporation.

Mr. Lawrence is a man of exceptional character and one that has been humbled through his ability serve those with greater needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Harvey Lawrence.

INTRODUCING THE CONTINUUM OF
LEARNING ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Continuum of Learning Act. Learning does not start in kindergarten or first grade: learning begins at birth. Decades of research have shown that quality early learning is foundational to success in school and in life.

Economists, educators, business leaders, law enforcement officers, and military generals agree on the importance of quality early learning. By the time they enter kindergarten, children from low-income families have developed only half the vocabulary of their well-advantaged peers. By investing early, we can close achievement gaps early and prevent future costs for special education, dropouts, crime, incarceration, and dependence on social services later in life.

A continuum of learning from birth through the early elementary grades can strengthen students' success in the K-12 system and beyond. The Continuum of Learning Act updates the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) to strengthen connections between existing early learning programs and the elementary grades.

I have conducted numerous teacher listening sessions and heard from hundreds of educators throughout Hawaii about their needs. Educators want more support in doing their jobs.

This bill, developed with my Senator BOB CASEY of Pennsylvania, and my original sponsors WALTER JONES of North Carolina, JARED POLIS of Colorado, and DON YOUNG of Alaska, helps educators from Head Start, other early childhood education programs, and elementary schools work together so young children have a successful transition into the elementary grades and beyond.

The Continuum of Learning Act of 2011 does not contain any new spending or create any new programs. It is a research-driven approach that integrates early learning considerations within states' and school districts' exist-

ing K-12 plans. This will strengthen the early education efforts for our nation's 21.2 million children under age 5, some 86,000 of whom are in Hawaii.

Without spending any additional taxpayer dollars, this bipartisan legislation helps our keiki (children) in Hawaii enter school ready to learn and increases their success in the early years. That early success puts our students on the path to graduate and compete for the best jobs. It is part of our shared legacy for our keiki, to give them a brighter future.

The Continuum of Learning Act makes a set of changes that I hope will eventually be included in a bipartisan reauthorization of ESEA. Specifically, the bill calls for: States reviewing and revising their early learning/guidelines for children ages 0-5 and additional standards for grades K-3, including core academic areas and social and emotional development like appropriate classroom behavior. Hawaii's Good Beginnings Alliance already developed strong early learning guidelines for preschool children in 2004; creating or revising state teacher certification or licensure in the early elementary grades and younger to reflect the specialized knowledge and skills to teach children in the birth-to-8 age span; providing training—including joint professional development—to early education and elementary school teachers in child development and best teaching practices. The plan also calls for elementary school principals and administrators to participate in professional development geared toward better developing elementary school curricula for young learners. Many states currently are under-utilizing the use of education funds for this purpose; promoting coordination between early childhood and Head Start programs and elementary school teachers so children have a supportive transition from preschool to elementary school. For example, a child who receives help on language skills or visits by a social worker in preschool can continue receiving that help, if needed, when he or she gets to kindergarten; assisting elementary schools in being "ready schools" so all children have the quality teaching, supportive services, and family engagement needed for their success. I thank Senators SHERROD BROWN (D-Ohio) and KAY HAGAN (D-North Carolina) for introducing the Ready Schools Act, which is included as part of this legislation; encouraging schools in need of improvement to use early childhood education as a strategy for improving student achievement.

The Continuum of Learning Act was developed with input from numerous national and Hawaii organizations, including: the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization of people working with children from birth through age 8. Twenty thousand people participate in Hawaii AEYC activities each year; the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), representing the principals of 33 million children in preschool through grade 8. More than 200 of Hawaii's public schools serve elementary-age children; the National Head Start Association (NHSA), supporting Head Start providers nationwide. In Hawaii, 3,300 children are enrolled in Head Start; Pre-K Now; First Five Years Fund (FFYF); the National Women's Law Center; Zero to Three; First Focus Campaign for Children; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Early Care and Education (ECE) Consortium; High Scope Educational Research Foundation.