

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

58

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2025

FEB 04

RE: H.B. No. 880

H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness, to which was referred H.B. No. 880 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY CHILD INTERVENTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Human Resources Development to reclassify certain positions within the Early Childhood Services Unit of the Department of Health Early Intervention Section; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for the reclassification of certain positions and establishment of mental health specialist positions within the Early Childhood Services Unit of the Department of Health Early Intervention Section.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Hawai'i Early Intervention Coordinating Council; Wai'anae Coast Early Childhood Services; Early Childhood Action Strategy; Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; and nine individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Resources Development.

2025-1227 HB880 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that Hawaii continues to face significant challenges in providing essential services for children with special needs under the age of three, largely due to high vacancy rates among early intervention providers. The shortage of specialists affects infant and toddler development and the State's ability to comply with federal mandates. This measure strengthens the State's capacity to meet early childhood developmental and mental health needs and addresses recruitment and retention issues that are critical to ensuring that children receive the essential services they need.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriations to unspecified amounts; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$52,800 for the reclassification of certain positions within the Early Childhood Services Unit of the Department of Health Early Intervention Section and \$142,032 for the establishment of two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent mental health specialist positions within the Early Childhood Services Unit of the Department of Health Early Intervention Section.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services & Homelessness that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 880, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 880, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Labor.



58

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services &  
Homelessness,

*Lisa Marten*

---

LISA MARTEN, Chair



## HSCR 58

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB 880	<b>Committee Referral:</b> HSH, LAB, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 1/30/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HSH Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MARTEN, Lisa (C)	X			
2. OLDS, Ikaika (VC)	X			
3. AMATO, Terez	X			
4. CHUN, Cory M.	X			
5. KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, Sue L.	X			
6. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	X			
7. TAKENOUCHI, Jenna	X			
8. ALCOS III, David	X			
9. GARCIA, Diamond	X			
TOTAL (9)	9			
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> _____				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee       Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office       Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				