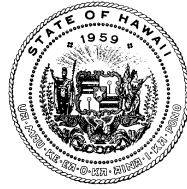


SCR 84 / SR61

Measure Title:	URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S HEALTHY START PROGRAM.
Report Title:	Department of Health; Hawaii Healthy Start Program; Child Abuse Prevention
Description:	
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	KANUHA, BAKER, DELA CRUZ, KIDANI, K. RHOADS, Fevella, J.Keohokalole



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on S.C.R. 84
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE
HAWAII'S HEALTHY START PROGRAM

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 20, 2019 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None at this time.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on S.C.R. 84 that
3 urges the continued expansion and improvement of the DOH Home Visiting Program, including
4 reinstatement of a statewide network of home visiting services.

5 A healthy birth and positive experiences in early childhood can promote health and development.
6 One approach that improves outcomes for children and their parents is home visiting. To
7 strengthen families and promote positive parent-child relationships, home visiting provides
8 individually tailored support, resources, and information to expectant parents and families with
9 young children. The goals of the program are to improve maternal and child health, prevent child
10 abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school
11 readiness.

12 Since enactment of the federal Affordable Care Act of 2010, the Department has administered
13 the current home visiting program in geographic areas selected through a statewide need's
14 assessment. The program was codified by statute in 2017 (HRS §321-327) and is a public-private
15 partnership with five early identification programs in birthing hospitals that screen pregnant
16 women and families with newborns, determine program eligibility, and refer eligible families to
17 ten evidence-based home visiting voluntary programs through the "Your 'Ohana" Network.

1 On October 1, 2018, the DOH received a \$3.8 million Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood
2 Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services,
3 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To receive current federal MIECHV
4 grant funds, HRSA requires the DOH to support evidence-based home visiting services with
5 state funds—or maintenance of effort—each year. Beginning with the State FY 2018 budget,
6 DOH received a \$3 million general funds appropriation for evidence-based home visiting
7 maintenance of effort. This amount is in the Department’s recurring base budget request. With
8 the state funds, the total MIECHV program budget is \$6.8 million.

9 Hawaii’s previous statewide “Healthy Start Program” was the example used for the current
10 Healthy Families America® evidence-based home visiting model. Since 1991, the term “Healthy
11 Start” refers to a HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau community program to improve the
12 health of America’s mothers and children before, during, and beyond pregnancy. It reduces
13 infant mortality rates, increases access to early prenatal care, and removes barriers to healthcare
14 access.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

16 **Offered Amendments:** Replace all occurrences of “Healthy Start” with “Home Visiting”;
17 replace “are now limited” on page 1, line 27 with “were reduced”.



HAWAII FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE
Making Hawaii's Families Strong

Executive Director

Gail F. Breakey

March 18, 2019

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Senator Baker, Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Senator Stanley Chang, Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Re: SCR 84, Healthy Start home visiting

Dear Senator Baker, Senator Chang and Committee Members;

Thank you so much for your continued concern for the safety and well-being of infants and toddlers at risk, and for advocating for home visiting services to support families of these newborns to be the best parents they can be.

Healthy Start has indeed been a highly successful program in averting child abuse and neglect. In addition to the 10-year John Hopkins study quoted in the legislation, a study conducted at Kapiolani Medical Center for early years of this program also showed real success in averting serious child abuse requiring hospitalization. In summary, that study showed that hospitalization for serious abuse was 4 times more prevalent in families determined to be at risk and not served than for high risk families served by Healthy Start.

After the loss of nearly all Healthy Start services in 2008, the Department of Health was highly pro-active in seeking federal funding for home visiting services under the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting initiative known as MIECHV. Under this legislation, several evidence-based models are eligible for funding, and Hawaii included Parents as Teachers and HIPPO in the newly organized home visiting initiative, along with Healthy Families America services, which are based on Healthy Start.

In recognition of this reality and efforts of all programs in the current MIECHV program, I suggest that this legislation be modified to include service models under the current Hawaii MIECHV program.

Further, with the recent AUW ALICE report which highlights the plight of a very high percent of Hawaii families in the current economic realities, the need of young families for real support in coping with stresses of everyday life and in learning positive parenting skills is more needed than ever. The first three years of life are the critical period for early brain development, self-esteem, resilience and a positive developmental trajectory for young children.

Again, thank you for continuing to be aware of the needs of overburdened young parents and their infants and toddlers. The future of Hawaii, both economically and socially, is dependent upon the capacity of parents to raise self-sufficient, resilient children. We need to invest in human capital!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Breakey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gail Breakey, Executive Director,
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Aloha United Way

March 19, 2019

Subject: SCR84/SR61: URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S HEALTHY START PROGRAM

Dear CPH Committee,

On behalf of Child & Family Service, I would like to submit this testimony in support of SCR84/SR61 with recommendations to be inclusive of all evidence-based models used to provide home visiting services to our zero to three children and their families across the state.

The bill supports expanded funding to improve Hawaii's Home Visiting Network (HHVN), funded by the Department of Health, for services to families and young children across the State of Hawaii. The HHVN is comprised of service providers who offer several federally approved evidenced-based models that are inclusive of the Healthy Families America (HFA) model, who accredits the Healthy Start model.

CFS strongly believes that early intervention through home visiting services is essential to ensuring that our youngest start off in life with a firm foundation that reduces the risk of child abuse and neglect, increases medical homes, and helps with school readiness among other services offered. Hawaii has yet to expand and improve services after the almost extinction of home visiting services for the zero to three children and families back in 2008. It's now time to revisit expanding and improving upon this essential service and return the program to become statewide again for all eligible children and families, regardless of their geographic location.

Sincerely,

Karen Tan, LCSW
Child & Family Service
President & CEO

"We're All About FAMILY"

Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children

SCR-84

Submitted on: 3/17/2019 12:59:17 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/20/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii does not need nor can we afford this program. Do not pass SCR 84. We are over taxed and the benefits are not compelling to fund this program. You need to bravely cut the waste. Vote NO.