

Aloha Everyone,

HB2046, HD1 is scheduled to be heard by the House Committee on Legislative Management on Tuesday, February 11, at 2pm, Conference room 312. Please submit testimony of support to this committee and direct it to Rep. Cullen, Chair. You may also submit the same testimony you sent to the Health committee; just address it to Rep. Cullen, Chair. I have a sample testimony attached.

HB2046, HD1. Designates the month of September as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month to promote public awareness of the risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Takes effect on 7/1/2050.

To submit testimony:

1. Go to <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/home.aspx>
2. Sign in
3. Go to "Submit testimony"
4. Enter HB 2046, write or attach file and submit testimony

February 7, 2020

To: Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Chair  
And Members of the House Committee on Legislative Management

Date & Time of Hearing: February 11, 2020, 2:00 pm, Room 312

**Testimony in Support of HB2046 Relating to FASD Month**

I am a retired biochemist and have researched some of the biochemistry behind fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), a 100% preventable condition caused by prenatal exposure to the metabolites of alcohol. Individuals afflicted with FASD inherit a permanent, life-long brain condition that affects every sector of our society. No child is asked to be born nor do I believe a woman intentionally wants to harm a child before birth. However, with approximately 50% of all pregnancies being unintended (State of Hawaii and Nationwide), Hawaii has an obligation to protect the unborn from the devastating condition of FASD. FASD is a worldwide public health issue and contributes to homelessness, imprisonment, mental health issues, with annual costs to the U.S. in billions of dollars. In a society where alcohol consumption is a living issue, FASD will not be eradicated. Thus, we must strongly support "Prevention" which comes through "Awareness". By creating in Hawaii, a FASD Awareness Month, we hopefully can decrease the potential numbers of FASD cases. I strongly support the passage of HB 2046 and thank you for your considerations.

Respectfully,

Kenichi K. Yabusaki, Ph.D.

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:24:56 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

## **HB2046 FASD Awareness Month: September**

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT:

- Rep. Ty Cullen, Chair; Rep. Mark Nakashima, Vice Chair
- Tuesday, Feb. 11th, 2020: 2:00 pm
- Conference Room 312

## **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB2046:**

GOOD MORNING CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of over 30 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

## **We can help the community to better understand Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD):**

- The healthcare field can better understand the disorder and reshape some of our interventions to change a child's behavior and improve functionality.
- The community can be part of reducing the prevalence of FASD.
- Throughout a continuum, providers can be empowered to help FASD people reach their full potential.
- By addressing stigma through education, our communities can better understand the complexities of this disability while promoting a more inclusive culture.
- Outcomes can be improved through Medicaid funding.
- Childhood trauma can be reduced by increasing support for high-risk families, building resilience, and improving access to treatment.

**Working together, we can join the growing number of states that claim to be a “FASD-Informed State.”**

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 1:47:08 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kristine altwies	hawaii international child placement and family se	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 2:10:56 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katrina Obleada	Hawaii Psychological Association	Support	No

Comments:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Chair

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti      Rep. Gene Ward

Rep. Dee Morikawa

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:            Tuesday, February 11, 2020

TIME:            2:00 p.m.

PLACE:          Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

**HEARING HB2046**

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT HB2046**

In behalf of myself, the Hawaii FASD Action Group, a group of volunteers appealing to you, being the voices of children who have none, and the individuals who have FASD whom for many years have been marginalized, unrecognized and without appropriate services. I am writing in strong support of HB2046.

FASD is associated with secrecy and shame, quite possibly due to its preventable nature and the stigma attached to it. Alcohol is legally accessible, available in the community stores, often left in unlocked cabinets in many homes, therefore, it is not surprising that the research stated that 1 in 20 first graders do have FASD. According to a research study questions, "Is this shame the reason for its marginalization of the children and families

with FASD in general? While Autism Spectrum Disorders has increased public awareness, availability of therapeutic services and much recognition. (Barker, Kulyk, Knorr, & Brenna, 2011).

I have had opportunities to visit schools, sat in group meetings, conferences and have exchanged dialogues regarding FASD. Many have no idea what it is and what are the implications and functionalities or even know and understand how to work with children, teenagers or adults with FASD not to mention many of its many complex challenges. To Have Fetal Alcohol Awareness Month will provide much needed information, education and recognition that will make FASD Invisible No More. This will be a special opportunity to remind and educate providers of care, systems of care, families, and communities in Hawaii about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and the special needs of those affected and their families and the impact on communities. Additionally, this will create education discussions, materials, workshops and reach girls who have not started drinking alcohol to learn about what alcohol can do to a baby's brain with its lifelong implications and complex disabilities. September is the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the year that signifies the 9 months of conception of a child. **Let us educate, create awareness and protect our tomorrow today.**

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Darlyn Chen Scovell

#### Reference

Barker, C., Kulyk, J., Knorr, L., & Brenna, B. (2011). Open Inclusion or Shameful Secret: A Comparison of Characters with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Characters with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in a North American Sample of Books for Children and Young Adults. *International Journal of Special Education*, 26(3), 171–180. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com.libproxy.edmc.edu/login?direct=true&db=eric&AN=EJ959010&site=eds-live>



**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 10:06:05 AM

Testimony for LMG on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Le Burkien	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this measure as a special opportunity to reach a public unaware of this issue. Awareness and education are the first step in increasing the public's knowledge and subsequent support. This measure will help to dispel FASDs as invisible disorders and significantly reduce the stigma preventing mothers asking for help and advocating.

**HB-2046-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 9:22:32 PM

Testimony for LMG on 2/11/2020 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Eri Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 10, 2020

To: Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Chair and the Members of the Committee of Legislative Management

Date and Time of Hearing: February 11, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

**Testimony in Support of HB2046 HD1 Relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support on this measure to further develop understanding toward Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder among providers and systems of care as well as all of us as a community in this state of Hawaii. Up to 1 in 20 children in the United States are reported to have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. I fully believe that further awareness and education in the community is needed for differences to be made in prevention, identification as well as services and supports to those impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder including their families.

Thank you for your consideration and providing me this opportunity to express my support toward this measure.

Sincerely,

Eri N. Rodrigues, LSW