



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1377, HD 1
RELATING TO CHILD HEALTH**

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 31, 2015

Room Number: 211

Fiscal Implications: This bill proposes a general fund appropriation to develop the specifications and pricing for, as well as an implementation plan, for a web-based data system in the Early Intervention Section (EIS) of the Department of Health (DOH). The bill also proposes a general fund appropriation for operating expenses and to establish a coordinator position in the DOH Children with Special Health Needs Branch to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children birth to age 5 years.

Department Testimony: The Department appreciates the intent of the bill but defers to the Governor's Executive Budget request and DOH appropriations and personnel priorities.

Early intervention database: EIS needs a web-based data system to improve efficiency and streamline processes for documentation of services, state and federal reports, program planning, quality improvement, and Medicaid and TRICARE billing. EIS provides early intervention services for children age 0-3 years with developmental delays or at biological risk for developmental delays, as mandated by the federal law Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The original data system was developed for New Mexico's early intervention system in 2000, and modified by EIS in 2007 for Hawaii use. The current EIS database is out-of-date by national standards, with a lack of a web-based data system. Other statewide early intervention programs in 34 states have web-based data systems.

Social-emotional development: The social-emotional and behavioral health of young children from birth to age 5 years is a crucial part of the foundation of children's learning and health needed for success in school and later in life. Hawaii data from the National Survey of

1 Children's Health 2011/2012 show that 31% of Hawaii children age 4 months to 5 years are at
2 risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delays, and that the Hawaii rate is higher than the
3 nationwide average of 26%. Nationally, the estimated prevalence for behavioral/emotional
4 disorders in 2- to 5-year-old children is 11-20%.

5 Hawaii resources to address social-emotional and behavioral concerns for young children
6 have diminished over time. A coordinated and collaborative approach, based on evidence-based
7 effective practices, across agencies and programs is needed. A Coordinator position is needed
8 to: (a) facilitate development of a statewide system that supports positive social-emotional and
9 behavioral outcomes for young children; (b) provide training and technical assistance on
10 evidence-based effective practices; and (c) identify areas for improvement or policy changes.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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March 31, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Green, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: HB 1377 HD1 – Relating to Child Health

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 1377 HD1.** The bill makes an appropriation to develop the specifications and pricing for, as well as, an implementation plan, a web-based data system in the early intervention section of the Department of Health (DOH), and makes an appropriation for operating expenses and to establish one permanent coordinator position in the Children with Special Health Needs Branch of DOH to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children birth to age five years.

Based on the mandated responsibilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Sections 321-352, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs, and the numerous State and purchase of services programs, it is imperative to have an updated data system that will contribute to the overall efficiency of the early intervention services program under DOH.

Equally important for an efficient service delivery system is the provision of quality services that is supported by ongoing training and consultation through a designated permanent full-time statewide coordinator position. The Council agrees with the justification for the need of a statewide coordinator as indicated on pages 5-6 to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children from birth to age five years.

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
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March 31, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **supporting the intent of HB 1377 HD1.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waynette K.Y. Cabral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosie Rowe". The signature is cursive and elegant, with the first name being the most prominent.

Rosie Rowe
Chair

Aloha United Way

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Aloha United Way

Cover Sheet

Testifying Agency: Aloha United Way
Cindy Adams, President & CEO

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Conference Room 211

HB 1377, HD 1: Relating to Child Health: Testimony in Support

Aloha United Way

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March 30, 2015

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice-Chair, Committee on Ways and Means

Re: HB 1377 HD 1 Relating to Child Health – **SUPPORT**
Hearing: Tuesday, March 31, 2015; Room 211; 9:00 AM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

Aloha United Way supports HB 1377 HD 1 which provides funding for a web-based database within the Department of Health to manage the department's early intervention program.

This bill is important because it lays the foundation for a system that will monitor the children in our community that require early intervention services because of developmental delays. Aloha United Way is currently funding several programs that identify children with delays. It is critical to the success of our collective efforts that we have adequate data on these children so we can monitor our interventions and ensure the adequacy of the support we provide.

Studies have proven that high-quality early intervention programs can divert many children that would otherwise wind up in expensive special education programs to normal education tracks. The potential savings to the state by diverting children into normal education track is estimated at \$18,000 per year per child. While this savings is important, adequate early intervention will also allow some delayed children and their families to avoid the stress and stigma associated with special education tracks.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 1377 HD 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Adams", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cindy Adams
President & Chief Executive Officer



Easter Seals Hawaii

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March 30, 2015

To: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

From: Ron Brandvold, President and CEO

Re: **Support for HB 1377/HD1 – Relating to Child Health**
Hearing Scheduled for March 31, 2015 (9:00 am)

For over 60 years, Easter Seals Hawaii has provided exceptional, individualized, family-centered services to empower infants, children, youth and adults with disabilities or special needs to achieve their goals and live independent fulfilling lives. Easter Seals Hawaii is a statewide CARF accredited organization with 15 facilities from Waimea, Kauai to Hilo, Hawaii providing a variety of programs, including early intervention services from six locations on three islands (Oahu, Hawaii Island, Kauai).

Data System: Easter Seals Hawaii supports the language and intent of HB 1377/HD 1 to establish a web-based early intervention section data system to improve efficiency and quality of services. As one of the purchase-of-service programs providing early intervention services, Easter Seals would expect to utilize such a system. Funding to develop the specifications, pricing and the implementation plan for such a system is a wise investment to assure long term objectives are met.

Social-Emotional and Behavioral Development of Children: Easter Seals Hawaii also supports HB 1377/HD 1 language and intent to re-establish a focus on social-emotion and behavioral outcomes on children ages birth – five. A permanent coordinator position within the Department of Health, Children with Special Needs Branch is critical. With a focus on systems coordination, identification of needed policy change, training and consultation on best practices, promotion of early identification and general health of children across child care settings, this position could have a substantial and positive impact on effective interventions to address these issues early in a child's life. This too is a wise investment in a well-functioning early intervention system of services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.