



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 1245
Relating to Health

SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 2, 2015

Room Number: 211

Fiscal Implications: Appropriates \$1,500,000 of general funds and \$1,500,000 of tobacco settlement special funds to maintain funding for the Department of Health's Home Visiting Program.

Department Testimony: We appreciate the intent but defer to the Governor's Executive Budget request and for the Department of Health's appropriations and personnel priorities. The tobacco settlement special fund that has supported the Department of Health's Home Visiting Program for the past several years is projected to significantly decrease. This decrease in funding necessitates a move to a more stable source of funding to ensure consistent and quality services to families. A \$3M state maintenance of effort (MOE) is a requirement to be eligible to receive the Affordable Care Act, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant and the assurance that home visiting services in Hawaii will continue to be provided in priority high-risk neighborhoods in the state. The department has sufficient funds for the required MOE for FY16 through the tobacco settlement special funds. This \$3M of tobacco settlement special funds ensures that the MIECHV can accept the \$9,430,783 grant award for FY16. The department was notified of this award on February 18, 2015.

Hawaii has been a leader in home visiting programs with the initiation of the Healthy Start Program in 1985. Since then, the program has evolved and the new Home Visiting Program utilizes three evidenced-based models Healthy Families America, Parents As Teachers and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters that include continuous quality improvement as part of the program design. These models were selected to best address

1 communities with the highest rates of premature births, low birth weight, infant mortality,
2 poverty, high school dropouts, unemployment, families receiving financial aid (Temporary
3 Assistance for Needy Families/Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families), families
4 receiving food stamps, reports of domestic violence, and confirmed child abuse and neglect.

5 Home visitation is supported by over 20 years of research that highlights the first 3 years
6 of life as an important intervention period for influencing a child's life course and the nature of
7 the parent-child relationship. The key messages of this research are that learning begins at birth,
8 and a child's developmental potential is maximized when comprehensive methods are employed
9 to reach newborns and their families. Evidence-based models of home visitation demonstrate
10 gains in parent-child attachment, access to preventive medical care, parental capacity and
11 functioning, and early identification of developmental delays (Daro, 2000). Analysis of
12 programs with an explicit focus on preventing child abuse and neglect for families of children
13 under 3 years of age have found a significant positive overall treatment effect on reports of abuse
14 and neglect, and on injury data (Geeraert, et al. 2004). Longitudinal studies of toddlers who have
15 participated in home visitation programs designed to prepare them for school have found positive
16 effects on school performance and behaviors through sixth grade (Levenstein, et al., 1998). The
17 empirical evidence generated by these studies and others demonstrate confidence in the efficacy
18 and efficiency of early home-based interventions with newborns and their parents.

19 In Hawaii, in fiscal year 2014, 621 families participated in home visiting services and
20 were provided 5,496 home visits.

- 21 • 100% of women who were pregnant at enrollment received their first prenatal care visit
22 before the end of the second trimester.
- 23 • 95.8% of mothers and target children were covered by a health insurance plan 6 months
24 post program enrollment.
- 25 • 0% of target children received an injury requiring medical treatment.
- 26 • 1.3% of enrolled target children had a report of child maltreatment substantiated by
27 Child Welfare Services.
- 28 • 84.3% of enrolled caregivers demonstrated support of index child's learning and
29 development.

1 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1245: Relating to Health

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair,
And Members, Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Social Policy Director, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: **Monday, March 2, 2015; 1:00 PM; Conference Room 211**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1245, which maintains funding at the current level of \$3,000,000 per year for both years of the biennium for the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, a program that works with families to prevent child abuse and neglect through partnerships between provider agencies and the Department of Health.

The \$3,000,000 requested for this program, not only funds effective and evidence-based services with a proven track-record of success, the annual amount is also required as maintenance of effort by the state to draw down over \$9.4 million in federal grant funds that have been awarded to the state. Without \$3,000,000 in funding for this program we will not be able to receive those federal funds. A precious opportunity to provide additional services to our at-risk families and young children will be lost. This is new information since the last hearing on this measure.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii.

Hawaii has a long history of providing early identification (screening/assessment) and home visiting services for families with children from birth to three years of age and was on the cutting edge nationally for providing these services when state funding cuts in 2008 essentially dismantled the early identification and home visiting services network. The establishment of the Hawaii Home Visiting Program by the Legislature in 2013 has helped these services continue in priority high-risk neighborhoods. This program is also supported by federal funds as part of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 and in order to draw down those federal funds and be eligible for future federal grant opportunities, Hawaii must maintain the current program funding level.

Raising a family with limited resources, personal histories of trauma and/or other life challenges can be very difficult for parents. It can also put them at-risk for mistreatment of their children. We all know that preventing abuse before it happens is much more effective in stopping the cycle of abuse and dysfunction that will be perpetuated without intervention. Supporting parents to be nurturing and appropriate through this program will save the state the high cost of intervening in an abusive family. It will also help produce keiki who are happier, healthier, and facing more positive outcomes in development and learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, please contact me at (808)527-4810 or trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



Catholic
Charities
USA



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808)527-4810 • trisha.kajimura@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org





PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Scott Morishige, MSW
Executive Director, PHOCUSED

HEARING: **Monday, March, 2, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Conf. Rm. 211**

Testimony in Support of SB1245, Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB1245, which maintains funding for the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, a program that works with families to prevent child abuse and neglect through partnerships between provider agencies and the Department of Health. PHOCUSED is a nonprofit membership and advocacy organization that works together with community stakeholders to impact program and policy change for the most vulnerable in our community, including families with young children in the home.

Hawaii has a long history of providing early identification (screening/assessment) and home visiting services for families with children from birth to three years of age. In fact, Hawaii was on the cutting edge nationally for providing these services when state funding cuts in 2008 essentially dismantled the early identification and home visiting services network. The establishment of the Hawaii Home Visiting Program (HHVP) by the Legislature in 2013 has helped these critical services to continue in priority high-risk neighborhoods. The HHVP is supported by federal funds as part of the Affordable Care Act of 2010, and in order to draw down these federal funds and be eligible for future federal grants, Hawaii must maintain the current program funding level.

A number of PHOCUSED member organizations – including Child & Family Service, Catholic Charities Hawaii, and Parents and Children Together – currently participate in the HHVP. Through their work in the community, these organizations see firsthand that raising a family with limited resources, personal histories of trauma, and/or other life challenges can be very difficult for parents and can put them at risk for mistreatment of their children. By intervening early and offering support to at risk parents, HHVP providers can effectively stop the cycle of abuse that would otherwise be perpetuated without intervention.

Once again, PHOCUSED strongly urges your support of this bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact PHOCUSED at 521-7462 or by e-mail at admin@phocused-hawaii.org.

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: **SB 1245 – Relating to Health – In Strong Support**
Hawaii State Capitol; Room 211, 1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Committee:

I'm co-chair of the Community Relations Committee for Child & Family Service. The committee is in strong support of SB 1245, which provides funding to continue the Hawaii home visiting program, a hospital-based early identification designed to enhance health and safety outcomes and prevent child abuse and neglect, and ensure continuation of home visiting services in certain priority high-risk neighborhoods.

The Hawaii home visiting program serves very high-risk families and in addition to successfully preventing child abuse, also addresses child health and child development. Child & Family Service provides home visiting services on Oahu and Kauai. These programs have been effective in keeping children enrolled up to date on immunizations and scheduled well-child visits, developmental screenings, and in reducing and eliminating child abuse and neglect. Furthermore, these programs are cost-effective. The CDC estimates the lifetime cost of one child abuse case is \$210,000. For an average of \$4,500 per family per year for home visiting services, the cost savings in child welfare and special education is substantial.

We ask for your favorable consideration of this measure. Thank you.

Lori Lum
Child & Family Service Board Member



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

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

HEARING: Monday, March 02, 2015
1:00 PM
Conference Room 211

FROM: Judith Wilhoite
Family Advocate
Family Programs Hawai'i, It Takes An `Ohana
(808) 542-4006

RE: SB1245 – Relating to Health

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am the Family Advocate for Family Program Hawaii's *It Takes An `Ohana* (ITAO) program and a resource caregiver, formerly referred to as foster parent. I, along with my Advisory Committee of resource caregivers, adoptive parents, and service providers, strongly support SB 1245.

SB 1245 will maintain funding for the Hawai'i Home Visiting Program. This program works with families to PREVENT child abuse and neglect – thus saving children from having adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). This is important, for research shows that ACEs harm children's developing brains so profoundly that the effects show up decades later; they cause much of chronic disease, most mental illness, and are at the root of most violence.¹ This information comes from the Kaiser Adverse Childhood Experiences Study², one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being. The study is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente's Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego.

As resource caregivers, we see firsthand how challenging it can be for children in foster care to heal from the ACEs they have experienced. Thus, we implore you to please pass SB1245 to help prevent harm to our children and families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express strong support for SB 1245,

¹ <http://acestoohigh.com/aces-101/>

² <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>



March 2, 2015

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Deborah Zysman
Good Beginnings Alliance

RE: **Support for SB 1245** – RELATING TO HEALTH
Hearing on March 2, 2015 at 1:00 PM in Conference Room 211

Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) **supports SB 1245**, which provides an appropriation to continue the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, a hospital-based early intervention that refers high-risk families to evidence-based home visiting designed to enhance health and safety outcomes and prevent child abuse and neglect, and ensure continuation of home visiting services in several high-risk communities throughout the state. The current level of \$3 million helps the state draw down more than \$5 million in federal funds provided through Affordable Care Act Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program each year and may leverage federal expansion funds if the state continues its maintenance of effort for this prevention program.

Good Beginnings Alliance is Hawaii's leading policy and advocacy non-profit organization on children's health, education and safety. We build a united voice to educate and advocate for Hawaii's children.

The Hawaii Home Visiting Program is much needed prevention and education resource that provides families with advice and guidance from health, social service and child development partners to improve the health and development, prevent child injuries, abuse, neglect or maltreatment, and improve school readiness and achievement for children from birth to three.

Through these home visits, parents gain knowledge and skills on how to improve their family's health and gain access to programs that are age-appropriate for their keiki's needs. Over time, parents also learn life skills that help to improve their family's economic self-sufficiency and lessen the incidence of domestic violence and crime in their homes.

For these reasons, GBA respectfully urges the committee to support the passage of SB1245.



HAWAII FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE
Making Hawaii's Families Strong

March 2, 2015

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairman, Senate Way and Means Committee

Senator Ronald Kouchi, Vice Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Re: SB 1245 Relating to Health

Dear Senators Tokuda, Kouchi and Committee Members

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute at the UH School of Social Work **testifying in support of SB 1245**, to provide funding for home visiting services for high risk, disadvantaged families with infants and toddlers.

SB 1245 would provide \$3 M in funding for this program. While it would be desirable to use some general funds, the Department of Health has committed \$3M Tobacco Settlement funds to support existing services to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote child safety and well-being. \$3 M is also maintenance of effort requirements to draw down over \$9 million in federal funds recently awarded to the Department. As this program has been funded in the state budget through the Tobacco Settlement fund for many years, it is hoped that it will be re-instated in the budget.

These services are designed to avert abuse and promote health and positive development of infants and toddlers who are at great risk for abuse and neglect, lack of school readiness and need for special education, as well as a host of social and health problems stemming from trauma and poor developmental foundations.

These services are important:

- Children under age five account for half of those in the child protective services; children under one comprise the largest age group, followed by one and two year olds.
- The first three years of life are the time of most rapid early brain development; the structure brain is 75% complete by age one and 85% complete by age three.
- Interaction with caregivers provides the context for early development; nurturing relationships promote healthy neurological and emotional development.
- Exposure to violence, trauma and neglect interferes with normal neurological development resulting in a negative developmental trajectory

- Services of Healthy Start and Parents as Teachers are designed to promote positive bonding and interaction of parents with the child, role model positive parenting techniques, promote and monitor positive child development, connect families with primary care provider for infant and teach parents how to teach their children to promote school readiness.

Services are effective. Data reports available for 2014:

- 100% non-abuse rate for families served,
- Developmental screens were completed for 81%-96% of children
- Emotional development screen were completed for 96%-100% of children
- Immunizations were up to date for 93%-96% of children
- 94%-100% of children had a “Medical home”

Services are cost effective:

- The cost of serving one family for 2 years is between \$9-10,000.
- The CDC estimated lifetime cost of one confirmed abuse case is estimated at \$212,010.

This program has been supported in the state budget by \$3 million in Tobacco Settlement funds for many years, even preceding the 2008 economic downturn. Again, this is also a Maintenance of Effort requirement to draw down \$9, 430,738 in federal funds through the Mother Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) initiative under the Affordable Health Care Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sincerely,

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Gail Breakey, RN, MPH, Executive Director,
Hawaii Family Support Institute
MBT School of Social Work



TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair, And
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President/CEO Parents And Children Together

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1245: Relating to Health**

HEARING DATE: Monday, March 2, 2015; 1:00 PM; Conference Room 211

My name is Ryan Kusumoto and I am the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT). Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of SB 1245**. SB 1245 supports funding at the current level of \$3 million per year for the Hawaii Home Visiting Program over the biennium. The Hawaii Home Visiting Program works to prevent child abuse and neglect by working together with families to identify and provide the appropriate intervention services through the partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Health.

Further, the \$3 million request to fund the Home Visiting Program at its current level is also needed to evidence maintenance of effort, to draw on funds that have been awarded to the State of Hawaii. This amount is over \$9,400,000 in federal funds. The \$3 million funding will allow access to vital federal dollars mentioned above, to further support these types of services and provide opportunities to innovate and expand services to more families with infants and toddlers.

This continued support of the Hawaii Home Visiting Program through SB 1245 will strengthen Hawaii's families "at-risk". Reaching the most vulnerable families, home visiting works with parents to promote healthy child development, school readiness, nurturing parenting skills and reduce toxic family stress. The first 1,000 days of a child's life is critical for the foundation to future development. The preventative design of home visiting is cost-effective by reducing the expenses linked to future and more costly treatment services as the child gets older.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 13,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: developmental screening, early childhood education, child abuse/neglect and domestic violence prevention and intervention, mental health support, youth activities, and community and economic development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

SB1245

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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SB1245

Submitted on: 2/28/2015

Testimony for WAM on Mar 2, 2015 13:00PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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