

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

455

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 1053
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2023
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Human Services and Health & Homelessness,
to which was referred H.B. No. 1053 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD
MENTAL HEALTH,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to create and appropriate
funds for an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program to
provide support and mental health services for children from birth
to age five.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Office of the Governor, Office of Wellness and Resilience
in the Office of the Governor, Department of Health, Executive
Office on Early Learning, Domestic Violence Action Center, Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!, Early Childhood Action
Strategy, EPIC Ohana, Commit to Keiki, Family Hui Hawai'i, Hawai'i
Community Foundation, Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo, and three individuals. Your
Committees received comments on this measure from the Judiciary,
Department of Human Services, and Association for Infant Mental
Health in Hawai'i.

Your Committees find that approximately twenty-nine thousand
children in Hawaii have mental health needs due to biological or
developmental special needs at birth, exposure to intimate partner

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violence, parental substance abuse, housing insecurity, and poverty. Your Committees further find that interventions at an early stage in life can reduce future needs for special education and mental health treatment, and reduce the risk of the child becoming involved with the juvenile and adult justice systems.

Your Committees note that the State lacks a consolidated, singular strategy for the provision of mental health programs. Currently the State's support for mental health is provided through programs located in many different agencies. The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program established by this measure is intended to improve accessibility, capacity, and quality of services by establishing an overall coordinator to work across the various agencies and with relevant nonprofit organizations to address the unmet mental health needs of the State's children.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committees respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$800,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024 and an appropriation amount of \$1,700,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Human Services and Health & Homelessness that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1053, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1053, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Human Services
and Health & Homelessness,

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DELLA AU BELATTI, Chair

John M. Mizuno

JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



