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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 4, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1296 HD1 SD1](#) - RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.

HEARING: April 6, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill, provides comments, and defers to the Department of Health on implementation.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes an Early Intervention Services Working Group within the Department of Health to study and recommend ways to assist and support deaf and hard of hearing children, including implementation strategies. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Requiring that the Early Intervention Services Working Group include in its membership:
 - (A) A representative of the Department of Health's Early Intervention Section;
 - (B) The Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, or the Director's designee;and
 - (C) A parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child under five years old who receives or has received early intervention services; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

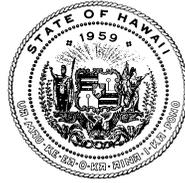
DHS appreciates the SD1 amendment to include a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child under five years old who receives or has received early intervention services as their lived experience is invaluable to developing effective strategies to address needed support and implementing best practices for early intervention services

Each year DHS, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), provides vocational rehabilitation services to over 200 Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients statewide. Many of these clients did not have early intervention services when they were young. Research shows that early intervention has a very positive impact on a child's development and children's academic performance. We understand early intervention services will significantly positively impact future clients accessing DVR's program services designed to support the needs of Hawaii's residents who identify as Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Additionally, DHS respectfully suggests the Legislature articulate the sections of Chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, that workgroup members are exempted from adhering to (see section 1, paragraph (d), on page 3, lines 5-7).

If the measure passes, DHS will participate in the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1296 H.D. 1 S.D. 1
RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 04/06/23

Room Number: CR 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed measure appropriates funds out of the general revenues of
2 the State for fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Department of Health (DOH) for expenses of the early
3 intervention services working group. The Department defers to the Governor's Executive
4 Biennium Budget Request for appropriation priorities.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure. This bill establishes an early
6 intervention services working group within the DOH to study and recommend strategies to assist
7 and support deaf and hard of hearing children, including best practices in early intervention and
8 education and implementation strategies.

9 The DOH Early Intervention Section (EIS) provides services as mandated by Part C of the
10 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for children from birth to age 3 years with
11 developmental delays or who have a health condition with a risk for developmental delay.
12 Establishing an early intervention services working group would assist EIS in identifying
13 strategies/best practices to support young deaf and hard of hearing children in developing oral
14 and/or sign language so that they have the language and communication skills needed for
15 learning in school.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

April 4, 2023

TO: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** H.B. No. 1296 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 6, 2023
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Conference Room 211

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

EOEL supports H.B. No. 1296 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 and defers to the Department of Health (DOH) regarding implementation.

EOEL works with stakeholders to establish a system that ensures a solid foundation of early childhood development and learning for Hawaii's children from prenatal to age five. Establishing an early intervention services working group would assist DOH EIS in identifying strategies to support young deaf and hard of hearing children in developing communication skills needed to enhance their development and learning.

We look forward to strengthening the systems of support for our youngest keiki across the State in collaboration with other stakeholders and departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1296-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:44:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/6/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor