



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SB672 RELATING TO HEALTH

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB672**, which eliminates language that subjects the use of the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund to the discretion of the Director of Finance. Expressly allows the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund to be used to provide incentive payments to Hawaii public school ABLE account owners. Establishes one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent position to provide statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program.

Act 206 of Hawaii Session Laws of 2015 enacted the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program. The ABLE Savings Program is modeled after 529 (Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code) college savings plans, where interest earned on savings will be tax-free. It allows individuals with disabilities the same types of flexible savings account that people without disabilities have, such as college savings accounts, health savings accounts, and individual retirement accounts. Furthermore, an ABLE account would enable individuals with a disability to accrue funds to pay for a variety of expenses, such as medical and dental care, education, community-based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing, and transportation.

There are approximately 23,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in the State of Hawaii who are eligible to open an ABLE Savings Program and an estimate of another 20,000 individuals with other disabilities who are eligible for an ABLE Savings Program. However, we currently have less than 75 individuals enrolled in the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. Throughout the past two years, the Council has been providing outreach to promote the Hawaii ABLE Savings program. We have learned many agencies, families and eligible individuals have been misinformed about ABLE Accounts, "it sounds too good to be true, what's the catch" is what we often hear. For years, they have been told do not allow your savings to go above \$2,000 or you will lose your state and federal funding supports. In addition, the only way to sign up for an ABLE account is online. Many individuals do not feel comfortable providing their personal information online. The Council will spend several minutes with a qualified individual or their family member to explain the process and then additional time to walk them through the process of signing up online.

We strongly believe by incentivizing the program and providing a staff devoted to statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawaii ABLE savings program, the program we will grow. We respectfully request on page 4 line 2, that the FTE

Honorable Senator San Buenaventura, Chair
February 8, 2023
SB672 - Support
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position be designated to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, to provide the statewide outreach.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB672.**

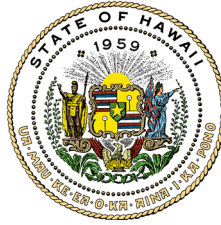
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 672
Relating to Health

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATOR HENRY J.C. AQUINO, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 8, 2023
1:00 PM.

Room Number: 225

1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
2 of Health, **supports SB672**, relating to Health for the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program Trust
3 Funds.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates an unspecified amount for fiscal year 2023-
5 2024 and the same sum for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the Hawaii ABLE Savings program trust
6 fund to provide incentive payments to Hawaii public school ABLE account owners and
7 appropriates an unspecified amount for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum for fiscal year
8 2024-2025 for the Hawaii ABLE Savings program trust fund to establish one full-time
9 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position.

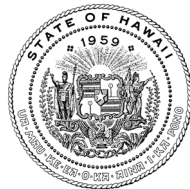
10 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill allows the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program
11 Trust Fund to be used to provide incentive payments to Hawaii public school ABLE account
12 owners. In addition, it establishes a full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent position to

1 provide statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawaii ABLE
2 Savings Program. By incentivizing the program and with the support of the one (1.0) FTE, DD
3 Council will be able to provide the necessary outreach and education about the program and its
4 benefits to the approximately **23,000** individuals with developmental disabilities in Hawaii to be
5 able to save money for their futures.

6 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports this measure provided that its enactment does not
7 reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 672

February 8, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

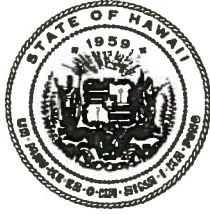
RELATING TO HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 672 amends Section 256B-8, HRS, to: 1) require any Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program contributions that are not deposited directly with the program manager to be deposited into the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund (HASPTF); and 2) authorize the HASPTF to provide incentive payments to account owners. The measure also: 1) appropriates undetermined amounts of general funds in FY 24 and FY 25 to be deposited into the HASPTF; 2) appropriates undetermined amounts of trust funds out of the HASPTF in FY 24 and FY 25 to provide incentive payments; and 3) appropriates undetermined amounts of trust funds out of the HASPTF in FY 24 and FY 25 to fund 1.00 permanent full-time equivalent to provide statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program.

In general, B&F does not support the creation of trust funds that require regular general fund appropriations to support its activities. Regarding the measure's proposed incentive payments and permanent program position that would require recurring funding, it is unclear if there are sufficient governmental or private grants available to ensure the HASPTF would continue to be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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February 8, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senate Bill 672 – Relating to Health

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports Senate Bill 672 – Relating to Health.

This bill eliminates language that subjects the use of the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund to the discretion of the Director of Finance; expressly allows the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund to be used to provide incentive payments to Hawai'i public school ABLE account owners; and establishes one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent position to provide statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program.

DCAB believes that dedicating a permanent position to statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program should help people with disabilities understand the benefits of this program and increase participation by people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

SB-672

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:29:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Louis Erteschik | Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

ABLE is a great program and this bill will strengthen it.

SB-672

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:25:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2023 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Annette Mente | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strong support the passage of SB672 to ensure effective implementation of this critical program.