

Honolulu, Hawaii

Fc44, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2022
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Health, to which was referred H.B. No. 2022
entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to improve the chances for
success in our educational system for children who may have
undiagnosed developmental disabilities by providing a means for a
child to be screened prior to the start of the child's first entry
into preschool or elementary school, to:

- (1) Ensure diagnosis, referral, correction or treatment; and
- (2) Integrate the efforts of community and state
organizations related to screening.

The Department of Education, Hawaii State Council on
Developmental Disabilities, Good Beginnings Alliance, Hawaii State
Teachers Association, and a concerned individual supported this
bill. The Department of Health and Hawaii Optometric Association
supported the intent of this measure.

Your Committee finds that the creation of an early childhood
screening program will provide necessary developmental screening
and assessment that will detect deficiencies and provide
corrections before they hinder a child's ability to function in
school. This initiative will build upon the work done by the




Screening Task Force (Task Force), established pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 70, H.D. 1, 2006. The Task Force submitted its finding in a report prior to the beginning of this legislative session.

Your Committee has amended this bill by:

- (1) Inserting a provision to fund the implementation of a hearing and vision screening program for newborns, pre-kindergartners, and children in school grades three, five, eight, and eleven; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2022, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2022, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Health,



JOSHUA B. GREEN, M.D., Chair



