

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION, EDUCATION, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS CONCERNS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2585

January 29, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

RELATING TO GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAMS

House Bill No. 2585 establishes a five-year pilot graduate school loan program and special fund for qualified individuals in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology, and school psychology. The bill also includes loan forgiveness provisions based upon employment in Hawaii with the State or another qualifying institution following completion of the graduate program. The program would be financed by the Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program special fund created by this bill. The fund would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, private contributions, loan payments, interest, and moneys from other sources. House Bill No. 2585 appropriates \$350,000 from the general fund for deposit into the special fund, and \$350,000 in special funds to the Center for Disability Studies of the University of Hawaii to administer the program.

We are opposed to this bill. As a matter of general policy, this department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-53.4 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Special or revolving funds should: 1) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries of the program; 2) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 3) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. It is difficult to determine whether the fund will be self-sustaining.

January 28, 2008

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Twenty-fourth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LAW TESTIMONY

Subject: In support of House Bill (HB) 2585

Dear Representative Chang, Representative Bertram and Committee on Higher Education:

I am a member of the 3-5 Task Force, which has studied the feasibility of extending Early Intervention Services beyond the current age limit of three years. I am writing in strong support of HB 2585 relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

Early intervention services assist children between birth and age three reach age appropriate developmental skills and aid families in achieving their goals for their children. These services are provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and special educators. The 3-5 Task Force is exploring the viability of providing similar services for children between the ages of 3-5 years. The 3-5 Task Force confirmed that one of the major challenges in providing these types of services is the limited number of qualified physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists available in Hawaii. The pool of therapists with the highest professional standards must be increased.

I support this bill as it will improve opportunities for students to earn graduate degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, or school psychology and return to Hawaii to work. The bill will allow students to borrow up to \$10,000 per academic year. The total loan will be forgiven if the student returns to Hawaii and works for the State or a non-profit agency or health care organization for at least three years after graduation. This bill will help increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

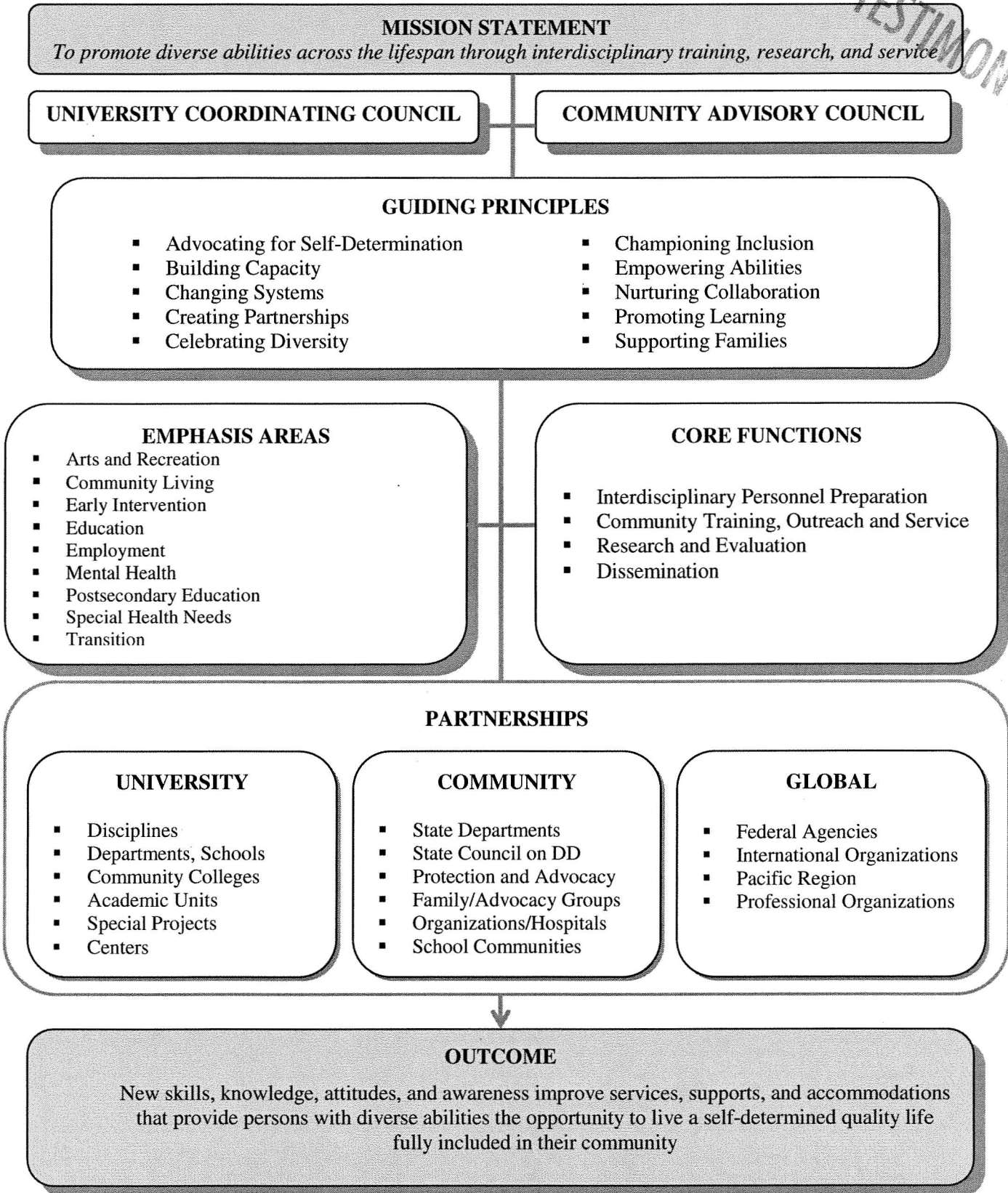
I ask you to support HB 2585.

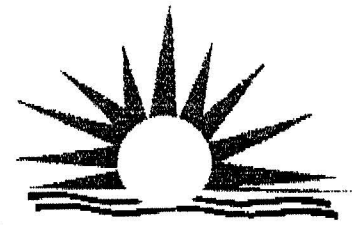
Sincerely,

Clayton Takemoto LSW, ACSW

Figure 1. UH-CDS Conceptual Framework

LATE TESTIMONY





Aloha Special Technology Access Center

710 Green Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2119

January 28, 2008

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Twenty-fourth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of House Bill (HB) 2585

For Hearing: Tuesday, January 29, 2:40 P.M. room 309

Dear Representative Chang, Representative Bertram and
Committee on Higher Education:

I am the Executive Director of ALOHA Special Technology
Access Center, Inc. I am writing in wholehearted support of HB
2585 relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate
School Loan Program.

I have had the opportunity to work with children from birth to 3
years of age with developmental delays and their families, as a
social worker and assistive technology specialist for more than
twenty years. The goal of early intervention services is to assist
the child in reaching age appropriate skills and aid the families and
care takers in achieving their goals for their child. The support
team for these families and care takers are physical therapists,
occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, social
workers and special educators, who help create the individual
family plans. In order to help the State provide federally mandated
early intervention services and meet mandated timelines, additional
qualified therapist are needed in Hawaii.

I wholeheartedly support this bill as it will improve opportunities
for students to earn graduate degrees in physical therapy,
occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, or school
psychology and return to Hawaii to work. The bill will allow

LATE TESTIMONY

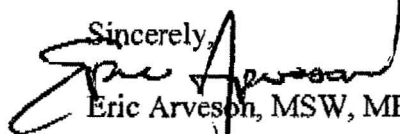
*Providing
Technology
For
Persons
With
Disabilities*

Voice 808-523-5547

students to borrow up to \$10,000 per academic year. The total loan will be forgiven if the student returns to Hawaii and works for the State or a non-profit agency or health care organization for at least three years after graduation. This bill will help increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HB 2585.

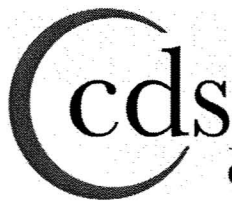
Sincerely,



Eric Arveson, MSW, MPH

Executive Director, ALOHA STAC

LATE TESTIMONY



CENTER ON DISABILITY STUDIES

LATE TESTIMONY

January 29, 2008

TO: The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
The Honorable Joe Bertram, Vice-Chair
And all Committee Members
House Committee on Higher Education, and

Subject: HB 2585, Relating to Graduate Loan Programs

Aloha:

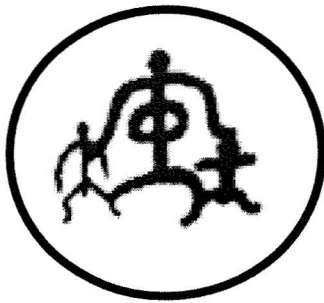
On behalf of the Center on Disability Studies, I strongly support the intent of this bill to create scholarship-loan forgiveness program for critical shortage areas of clinicians to provide needed services to infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities in the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and private not-for-profit agencies in the state of Hawai`i.

The mission of the Center on Disability Studies is *to promote diverse abilities across the lifespan through interdisciplinary training, research and services*, as shown on the attached Conceptual Framework. Recruiting and retaining highly qualified speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and school psychologists, addresses a critical work-force development need in the State of Hawai`i. Without the services of these clinicians during the formative years of their lives, children with disabilities will not have the opportunity to be include in general education classrooms, have access to the general curriculum, have opportunities for postsecondary education, and eventually for full inclusion in their community.

This type of a scholarship/loan forgiveness program has proven to be successful in many places. The majority of these students will return to Hawai`i and spend their careers providing services to persons with disabilities in our state. The Center on Disability Studies is willing to administer this program, **if given the administrative funding needed to meet the requirements of the legislation.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I commend you for your leadership in addressing this critical work-force development issue.

Sincerely,
/s/ *Jean Johnson*
Jean Johnson, DrPH
Associate Director



HAWAI'I EARLY INTERVENTION
COORDINATING COUNCIL

1350 South King St. Suite 200 ☞ Honolulu Hawai'i 96814

LATE TESTIMONY

DATE: February 8, 2007

TO: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Rep. Joe Bertram, III, Vice Chair

FR: Leolinda Parlin, Chair, Hawai'i Early Intervention Coordinating Council

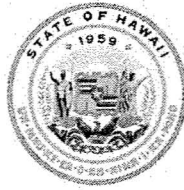
RE: HB 2585 RELATING TO GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAMS

On behalf of the Hawai'i Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC), I submit this testimony in **strong support** of HB 2585, which establishes a graduate school loan program and corresponding special fund for qualified individuals in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology, and school psychology. Most important to our program is that the loan forgiveness schedule is based upon the applicant's commitment to complete an employment cycle here in Hawai'i.

The HEICC is the federally mandated advisory in Hawai'i for the services and programs defined in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Because of the scope and nature of services mandated through Part C, our Early Intervention system of care relies heavily upon a team of qualified rehab professionals to serve our most vulnerable children who have or are at risk for developmental delay. Whether these providers are part of the state system or are contracted through our Purchase of Service agreements, the fact remains; there are **not enough** therapists to meet the needs of the children we are mandated to serve. Because of the existing shortages of these health care disciplines, the finite number of resources in our state, and the aging and retirement of the existing workforce, the state must seek unique remedies to address these needs or face the consequences of noncompliance.

In recent years, much attention has been given to the "brain drain" whereby our own young adults are pursuing careers away from home. For our *keiki 'o ka 'āina* who pursue career pathways in occupational and physical therapy, we are already at a disadvantage as they must seek their higher education in the mainland, making it that much harder to get them to return to Hawai'i. With the high cost of living, it is very difficult for our local graduates to return home. With the incentive for loan forgiveness, we anticipate that this may be the right kind of attraction to minimize the brain drain in these much needed health care disciplines.

Thank you for your time and consideration in passing this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
January 29, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Chang and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 2585 – RELATING TO GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAMS

The position and views expressed in this testimony do not represent nor reflect the position and views of the Department of Health (DOH) and University of Hawaii.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT AND INTENT OF HB 2585**. HB 2585 establishes a graduate school loan program and corresponding special fund for qualified individuals in the areas of occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), speech language pathology, and school psychology, provides for a loan forgiveness schedule for individuals who maintain approved employment, and appropriates funds for the program.


This bill provides a vehicle for offering incentives for students to participate in the program and in turn build capacity of qualified individuals in rehabilitative and related services. These services are critical in working with infants and toddlers in early intervention and preschool, the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The program will help increase resources in the above-mentioned disciplines. These disciplines are considered shortage categories not only in Hawaii, but nationwide. The challenges of recruitment and retention are increasing since Hawaii does not have graduate programs for OT and PT, the Speech and Audiology program is under probation, and the School Psychology program is not accredited.

The Council defers to the University of Hawaii, Center on Disabilities Studies regarding the mechanics of implementing the loan program.

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang
January 29, 2008
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,


Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

LATE TESTIMONY

January 28, 2008

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Twenty-fourth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Subject: In support of House Bill (HB) 2585

Dear Representative Chang, Representative Bertram and Committee on Higher Education:

I am a Speech Language Pathologist at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children and a Clinical Instructor for graduate students studying in Speech Language Pathology at the University of Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of HB 2585 relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

As a Speech Language Pathologist, I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with a variety of individuals, ranging from birth through adulthood. Their needs have been as complex as using computerized systems to communicate with others down to working with a young toddler just learning to talk. However, our work does not end with the individual. Rehabilitation Services and related providers such as Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, and school psychologists provide guidance, nurturing, and support not only to their clients, but to their families and caregivers as well. We are the professionals specially trained to help people in need learn how to walk, write, talk, and eat, while giving families the tools to care for these individuals.

I support this bill as it will improve opportunities for students to earn graduate degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, or school psychology. The bill will allow students to borrow up to \$10,000 per academic year. The total loan will be forgiven if the student returns to Hawaii and works for the State or a non-profit agency or health care organization for at least three years after graduation. These professions require specialized and specific training, and are in high demand all over the United States. This bill will help increase the number of available therapists and promote our students to return home to live and work back in the islands.

I ask you to support HB 2585.

Sincerely,
Lisa Ing, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist/Clinical Instructor

January 28, 2008

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Twenty-fourth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Subject: In support of House Bill (HB) 2585-- Rehabilitative and Related Services
Graduate School Loan Program

Hearing: Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 2:40pm., room 309 (Committee on Higher Education)

Dear Representative Chang, Representative Bertram and Committee on Higher
Education:

I am a social worker at Easter Seals and I am writing in strong support of HB 2585
relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

It is my privilege to work collaboratively with children from birth to 3 years of age with
developmental delays and their families. The goal of early intervention services is to
assist the child in reaching age appropriate skills and aid the family in achieving their
goals for their child. These services are provided by physical therapists, occupational
therapists, speech-language pathologists, social workers and special educators. In order
to help the State provide federally mandated early intervention services and meet
mandated timelines, the pool of therapists with the highest professional standards must be
increased.

I support this bill as it will improve opportunities for students to earn graduate degrees in
physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, or school psychology
and return to Hawaii to work. The bill will allow students to borrow up to \$10,000 per
academic year. The total loan will be forgiven if the student returns to Hawaii and works
for the State or a non-profit agency or health care organization for at least three years
after graduation. This bill will help increase the number of available therapists to serve
Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

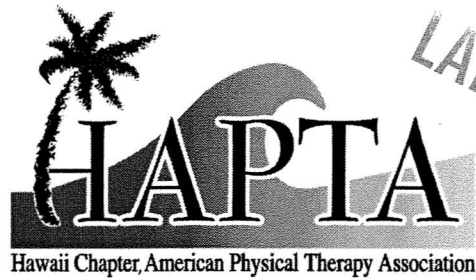
I ask you to support HB 2585.

Sincerely,

Dawn R. Williams, MSW, LSW
Special Projects Coordinator
Easter Seals Hawaii

**Testimony by:
Lucy Lessard, PT**

**HB 2585, Graduate Loan Programs
House HED Committee
January 29, 2008 - 2:40 pm
Conference Room 309**



LAIÉ TESTIMONY

Position: Support

Chair Chang and Members of the House HED Committee:

I am Lucy Lessard, P.T., member of the Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association, and Chair of the Legislative Committee. The Hawaii Chapter – American Physical Therapy Association (HAPTA) is comprised of 300 member physical therapists and physical therapist assistants employed in hospitals and health care facilities, the Department of Education school system, and private practice. We are part of the spectrum of care for Hawaii, and provide rehabilitative services for infants and children, youth, adults and the elderly. Rehabilitative services are a vital part of restoring optimum functioning from neuromusculoskeletal injuries and impairments.

HAPTA supports this bill that establishes a graduate school loan program and corresponding special fund for qualified individuals in the areas of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech language pathology, and school psychology. It provides for a loan forgiveness schedule for individuals who maintain approved employment.

It is important to note that there is a national shortage of PT's and it is acute in the state of Hawaii. Currently, state residents who want to become a PT must travel to out-of state schools, incurring a high cost of education. Residents miss out on service due to this shortage. We support loan forgiveness to PT graduates and believe it would encourage more new graduates to practice in Hawaii.

Please support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

January 28, 2008

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Twenty-fourth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE TESTIMONY

Subject: In support of House Bill (HB) 2585

Dear Representative Chang, Representative Bertram and Committee on Higher Education:

I am a member on the 3-5 task Force which has studied the feasibility of extending Early Intervention Services beyond the current age limit of three years. I am writing in strong support of HB 2585 relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

Early intervention services assist children between birth and age three reach age appropriate developmental skills and aid families in achieving their goals for their children. These services are provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and special educators. The 3-5 Task Force is exploring the viability of providing similar services for children between the ages of 3-5 years. The 3-5 Task Force confirmed that one of the major challenges in providing these types of services is the limited number of qualified physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists available in Hawaii. The pool of therapists with the highest professional standards must be increased.

I support this bill as it will improve opportunities for students to earn graduate degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, or school psychology and return to Hawaii to work. The bill will allow students to borrow up to \$10,000 per academic year. The total loan will be forgiven if the student returns to Hawaii and works for the State or a non-profit agency or health care organization for at least three years after graduation. This bill will help increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HB 2585.

Sincerely,

Susan Merrill, M.Ed.
Program Director
Waianae Coast Early Childhood Education Services
Parent Child Development Center (Early Intervention on the Waianae Coast)