

Date of Hearing: March 19, 2008

Committee: House Health/Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: H.C.R. No. 225 (H.R. 192), Requesting the Department of Health and Department of Education to provide a comprehensive report of post Felix Consent Decree Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and funding.

Purpose: To request the Department of Health and Department of Education to provide a comprehensive report of post Felix Consent Decree Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and funding.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (Department) supports H.C.R. No. 225 (H.R. 192).  
The Department will report to the Legislature its funding levels of mental health and special education services. The number of students with mental health needs served and outcomes, the number of vacant positions, along with issues related to filling vacant positions within the Department can be found in the Integrated Performance Monitoring Report. The Department's of Education and Health publish this report jointly on a quarterly basis. Previous and current performance data for the

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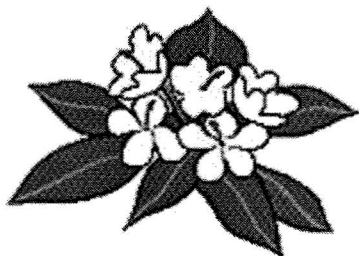
Departments are available through Departmental websites:

(<http://165.248.6.166/data/felix/index.htm> and

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/mental-health/camhd/index.html>.

In regards to the development of a quality assurance process, there is a process in place. The Department participates in monthly quality assurance meetings and has for the past five years. These quality assurance meeting participants include the Department of Health's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, Early Intervention Section, Developmental Disabilities Division and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division; the Department of Human Services; Family Court; Hawaii Families As Allies; and the Community Children's Council Office. As stated, this interagency group along with its community partners has been meeting for the past five years and grew out of a need as seen by the Department of Education and the Department of Health to assure continued sustainability of the infrastructure and system performance practices developed under the Felix Consent Decree. It reflects the commitment of both Departments to maintain an accountable system of care for our children with special needs in Hawaii. The Department supports H.C.R. No. 225 (H.R. 192).

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**S E A C**  
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March 19, 2008

**Special Education  
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*  
Mr. Steve Laracuente, *Vice  
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**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON  
HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

HCR 225 - Requesting the Department of Health and Department of Education to Provide a Comprehensive Report of Post Felix Consent Decree Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Funding

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **supports** the above resolution in its entirety.

SEAC has an active Legislative Committee that helps to draft and support legislation to benefit children and young adults with disabilities and their families. We are represented on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Task Force to work on behalf of children with special education and mental health needs.

This resolution addresses an important need to assess the current supports provided to students with disabilities through Child & Adolescent Mental Health and special education, as well as infrastructure or personnel issues that impact negatively on the delivery of quality services. SEAC recognizes that various sources of data are often generated but not integrated. We concur that a full time staff person is necessary in order to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of quality services across state agencies. SEAC also encourages the inclusion of community advocates in the quality assurance process.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this issue. Should you have any questions regarding our position, you are welcome to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Health**  
**House Committee on Education**

**HCR 225,**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.**  
**Director of Health**

**March 19, 2008, 9:15 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports this measure.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

3 **Purpose and Justification:** This Resolution calls for a comprehensive report of post-Felix child and  
4 adolescent mental health services and funding by the Department of Health and the Department of  
5 Education. The Resolution cites the existence of the following critical issues: consistent and appropriate  
6 quality services, lack of service system development in certain areas of the state, lack of accountability,  
7 and the numbers of children being sent to mainland placement. The report shall describe the current and  
8 Felix-era funding levels, numbers of children served and their outcomes, and the number of position  
9 vacancies.

10 The Department of Health will be more than happy to share information about these areas which  
11 are monitored through internal quality assurance infrastructures already in place at CAMHD and  
12 interagency quality assurance activities, which are ongoing. The Department fully supports these  
13 quality assurance mechanisms as a way to monitor the performance and effectiveness of services to  
14 youth with behavioral health concerns, while allowing for full participation by families and other

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1 stakeholders in a publicly accountable system. Results of these efforts are seen in many ways, one of  
2 which is the dramatic decrease in the numbers of youth currently in mainland placement.

3 We thank you for the opportunity to testify.