

TESTIMONY
from the
Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Testifier's Name: Waynette Cabral

Position Title: Executive Administrator

Organization: Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Day, Date, and Time of Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2008, 2:15 p.m.

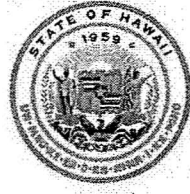
Measure Number: HCR 314 - REHABILITATIVE AND RELATED SERVICES
GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAM

Name of Committee(s): House Higher Education (HED)

Number of copies the Committee is requesting: 5 copies (including an
original)

Room Number: 311

E-mailed to: HEDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov



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
March 27, 2008

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: HCR 314 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A REHABILITATIVE AND RELATED SERVICES GRADUATE SCHOOL LOAN PROGRAM WITHIN ITS CENTER ON DISABILITY STUDIES

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

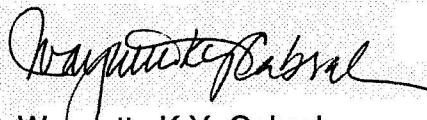
The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HCR 314**. The purpose of the measure is to urge UH to establish a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies (CDS) to: 1) provide financial support to individuals who complete graduate programs in the fields of physical therapy, speech language pathology, or school psychology; and 2) provide educational loan forgiveness based upon employment in Hawaii with the State or another qualifying institution.

A rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program would offer incentives for students and build capacity and increase resources within the State for the above-mentioned services. These services are critical when working with infants and toddlers in early intervention and preschool, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities. The disciplines mentioned above are considered shortage categories not only in Hawaii, but nationwide. Recruitment and retention challenges are increasing since Hawaii does not have a physical therapy graduate program, the Speech and Audiology program is under probation, and the School Psychology program is not accredited.

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Page 2
March 27, 2008

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HCR 314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Waynette K.Y. Cabral", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

March 25, 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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 2:15 p.m., room 309 at the State Capitol

I am a social worker and interim program manager at Easter Seals Hawaii's East Sultan Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of HCR 314 urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

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 HCR as it will raise awareness of the need to 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. It will also focus attention on the need to increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,

Dawn Williams, MSW, LSW

March 25, 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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

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Dawn Williams, MSW, LSW

March 25, 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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314
to be heard on March 27, 2008 at 2:15pm in Room 309**

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

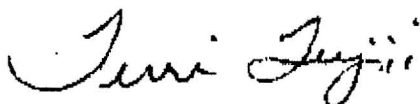
I am the Chair of the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Hawaii and am writing in strong support of HCR 314 urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

Early intervention services assist children between birth and age three in reaching age appropriate developmental skills and aid families in achieving their goals for their children. Easter Seals Hawaii has provided early intervention services for over 60 years, utilizing physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and special educators. 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 HCR as it will raise awareness of the need to 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. It will also focus attention on the need to increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,



Terri Fujii



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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

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

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of HCR 314 urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

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. Easter Seals Hawaii has provided early intervention services for over 60 years, utilizing physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and special educators. 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. Our State needs to increase therapists to meet the demand of our population.

I support this HCR as it will raise awareness of the need to 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. It will also focus attention on the need to increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valery O'Brien".

Valery O'Brien
Board of Director of Easter Seals Hawaii and more important
Mother of Katie an Easter Seals Client

HEDtestimony

From: Jamie Mitchell (East Sultan EIP) [JamieM@eastersealshawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 12:52 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HCR 314

3/25/08

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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

I am a Physical Therapist at Easter Seals Hawaii's Sultan Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of HCR 314 urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

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 HCR as it will raise awareness of the need to 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. It will also focus attention on the need to increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,

Jamie Mitchell MS, PT
Physical Therapist
East Sultan Early Intervention Program
3515 Harding Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816
phone - (808) 735-6981

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HEDtestimony

From: Paula Fitzell (Sultan EIP Mgr) [PaulaF@eastersealshawaii.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 2:51 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Please support HCR 314

3/25/08

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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

I am a Program Manager at the Easter Seals Hawaii Sultan Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of HCR 314 urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

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I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,

Paula Fitzell, M. Ed.
Program Manager
Sultan Early Intervention Program
Easter Seals Hawaii
710 Green Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-536-3764
Fax: 808-521-4494
Email: PaulaF@eastersealshawaii.org
Website: www.eastersealshawaii.org

3/25/2008

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Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
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Paula Fitzell, M. Ed.
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Sultan Early Intervention Program
Easter Seals Hawaii
710 Green Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-536-3764
Fax: 808-521-4494
Email: PaulaF@eastersealshawaii.org
Website: www.eastersealshawaii.org

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Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 2:51 PM
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3/25/08

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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

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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.

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3/25/2008

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March 25, 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 Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

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

I am a Executive Director at Imua Family Services. I am writing in strong support of HCR 314, urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

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. Imua Family Services recognizes 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 HCR as it will raise awareness of the need to 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. It will also focus attention on the need to increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Jayne

HEDtestimony

From: Karen Jayne [kjayne@imuafamilyservices.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 2:58 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Written testimony to support HCR 314

Attachments: In support of HCR 314.pdf

To: Committee on Higher Education:

Please see attached written testimony in support of HCR 314 attached.

House – HCR 314

Committee on Higher Education

Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2008 at 2:15 p.m., room 309 at the State Capitol

by email - HEDtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

by fax: 586-8529 (Oahu) or 1-800-535-3859 (Neighbor Islands)

Karen L. Jayne

Karen L. Jayne | Executive Director | **Imua Family Services** | telephone 808.244.7467x223 | fax 808.242.5835
kjayne@imuafamilyservices.org | www.imuafamilyservices.org | "Building Bridges - Moving Forward - Changing Lives"

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In support of HCR
314.pdf (92 ...)

March 27, 2008



Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair
Committee on Higher Education

Subject: In support of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 314

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

The Good Beginnings Alliance is in strong support of HCR 314, urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies. I have a Masters Degree in Special Education. Through my professional work, I know the crucial role physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech and language therapists play in the education of young children who have special needs.

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. Good Beginnings recognizes 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. My son recently completed a Ph. D. in physical therapy; a degree which he achieved from a graduate school in Arizona. He is now working in Washington state; an incentive to have him return to Hawaii would have been very helpful. Hawaii could use a professional with his expertise and training.

I support this HCR as it will raise awareness of the need to 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. It will also focus attention on the need to increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I ask you to support HCR 314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth Chun".

Elisabeth Chun

Executive Director

Good Beginnings Alliance



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education**
March 27, 2008, 2:15 p.m., Room 309

by
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Testimony by
Christine K. Sorensen
Dean, College of Education
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 314: Urging the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program within its Center on Disability Studies.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i and the nation continue to have needs for professionals that serve our citizens in a variety of ways, including as physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, and school psychologists. While the University seeks to serve the many and various needs of the state, currently its capacity to provide programs in the areas related to this resolution is limited. While the intent of the resolution, urging establishment of a graduate school loan forgiveness program for those pursuing degrees in these occupational areas and serving in Hawai'i, is laudable, we cannot support the recommended approach in this resolution for the following reasons.

First, there is no funding associated with the resolution and the University of Hawai'i would not have the resources to establish such a loan program using its own resources. The resolution points to the fact that students would have to study in non-UH programs and return to the state for a service obligation. This means that candidates would likely be pursuing graduate education on the mainland or in institutions not part of the UH system within the state. It would not be reasonable to expect UH-based personnel to manage the complicated loan distribution and service obligation documentation required for serving students not attending UH.

Second, the Center on Disability Studies in the College of Education has limited experience or capacity in administering student loans, a task normally associated with the university financial aid office. The expertise necessary to manage such an undertaking is outside the scope of CDS. In addition, CDS is staffed almost entirely by temporary employees on contract and grant funded support. Because CDS is not permanently funded, housing responsibility for a program that requires a long-term commitment to tracking students and long-term documentation of service commitments would be inadvisable. Should CDS not have the level of funding available to

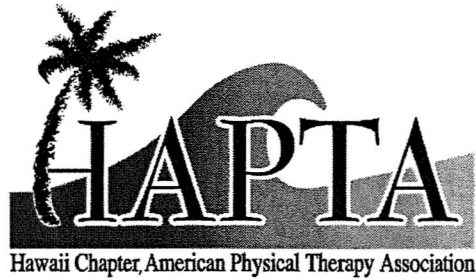
support personnel to take on this task, it would likely fall to another College office already at working capacity and without expertise in this area.

While incentives to pursue needed service occupations is worthwhile, we would suggest, should funding become available, that a more detailed plan be developed that would provide adequate support for management of such a program.

Thank you.

**Written Testimony by:
Lucy Lessard, PT**

**HCR 314, Urging the UH to Establish
and Administer a Rehabilitative and
Related Services Graduate School
Loan Program Within its Center of
Disability Studies
House HED Committee
March 27, 2008 - 2:15 pm
Conference Room 309**



Position: Support

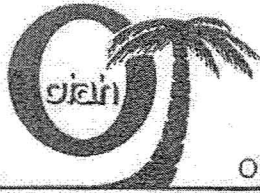
Chair Chang and Members of the House HED Committee:

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 measure that seeks to establish a graduate school loan program 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 resolution. I can be reached at (808) 547-6292 if there are any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**Testimony by:
Virginia Tully, OTR, MBA**

**HCR 314, Urging the UH to Establish
And Administer a Rehabilitative and Related
Services Graduate Student Loan Program Within
its Center of Disability Studies
House HED Committee
Thursday, March 27, 2008
Room 309, 2:15 pm**

Position: Support Intent

Chair Chang and Members of the House HED Committee:

I am Virginia Tully, OTR, and President of OTAH. The Occupational Therapy Association of Hawaii (OTAH) represents 507 occupational therapists (OTs) licensed in Hawaii. OT's work in many settings throughout the State, including hospitals, schools, and prisons, to private facilities and community programs. We work with very young children, ages 0-3, as well as school aged children, adults, and the elderly, seeking to restore or develop social-emotional, physical, cognitive, communication and adaptive behavior challenges.

Through understanding of the effect of the consumer's disability, illness and impairment, the occupational therapist develops a program that will promote development and establish needed skills to be independent in daily living activities. Daily living skills include self-care such as bathing, dressing, and skills required for learning, work or social interaction. Often times, OTs must design/fabricate special devices or suggest modification to the home environment.

Hawaii has a shortage of therapists such as OTs, PTs, and speech pathologists. In order to meet the demand, traveling therapists are brought into the State---that is costly and because of the rotation of traveling therapists continuity of care is at risk.

The proposed loan program, which would include loan forgiveness for these disciplines, may provide incentives for increasing Hawaii students to enter these professions and eventually work in the community. Currently, there are Hawaii students interested in OT or PT education but find the cost prohibitive. Thus, students often enroll in another health care related program in Hawaii.

Currently, OT and PT professions require a Master's degree at entry. Upon completion of the educational requirements of a program, students must complete a clinical internship. This can be up to 6 or 9 months after completion of the educational program. After completing the clinical internship, OTs must take a nationally administered certification examination. Hawaii state law requires successful completion of the certification examination before employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I can be reached at 544-3336 if further information is needed.

Testimony for H.C.R. No. 314

Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Representative Joe Bertram, Vice Chair
House Committee on Higher Education

Anne Horner, Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association President
Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association
P.O. Box 235888
Honolulu, HI 96823-3516
(808) 528-4742

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Support for H.C.R. 314, relating to the establishment and administration of a Graduate School Loan through the University of Hawaii Center for Disability Studies.

The Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association is a nonprofit corporation with a membership consisting of speech-language pathologist and audiologist employed in a variety of work settings that provide services to individuals across the age spectrum. We strongly support H.C.R. No. 314, which urges the University of Hawaii to establish and administer a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program.

Hawaii's need for qualified professionals in the areas of physical therapy, occupational therapy, school psychology, and speech-language pathology continues to grow each year. In Hawaii, the field of speech-language pathology is faced with issues of recruitment and retention for all work settings. Therefore, it is important that we support incentives such as the establishment and administration of a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program that will encourage training and recruitment for these professions in Hawaii.

The establishment of a rehabilitative and related services graduate school loan program for the professions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, school psychology, and speech-language pathology is one way we can help support the growth of these important professional fields and ensure that Hawaii's residents have access to proper care and treatment by qualified individuals should a need arise. We urge the committee to support H.C.R. No 314. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.