

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 31, 2008

LATE

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: SB 2051 - RELATING TO HEALTH

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

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS SB 2051**. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for hearing and vision screening for newborns, pre-kindergartners, and children in school grades 3, 5, 8, and 11.

The Council believes that childhood screening, and identification and intervention for developmental delays during the early stages of development are crucial to ensuring that children are able to function in school to the best of their ability and to succeed. The Council further believes that expanding this to teenagers in grades 8 and 11 can lead to the identification and treatment that can alleviate problems that had previously gone undetected and to prevent future problems as a result of impaired vision or hearing.

We offer two suggestions regarding the bill for your consideration:

- 1) Amend the bill on page 2, lines 10-11, to delete reference to the specific age groups to allow DOH the flexibility to determine which age groups to provide screening for vision and hearing. DOH, through their previous vision and hearing screening program and Screening Task Force, should have data to support what age groups would be most appropriate for screening.

The language proposed is: “the implementation of a hearing and vision screening program for school aged children as established by Section 321-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes.”

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- 2) Reinststate the budget for DOH to continue the School Hearing and Vision and Follow Up Program that was terminated in 1995 due to budget restrictions. We defer to DOH for the budget requirements to implement the program.

The Council was a member of and participated on the Screening Task Force, established pursuant to SCR 70 HD1, SLH 2006. The purpose of the task force was to determine a means for a child to be screened prior to the start of the child's education, at the child's first entry into preschool and elementary school; to provide for diagnosis, referral, correction or treatment; and to integrate efforts of community and State organizations related to screening under this Hawaii childhood screening initiative. The task force completed and submitted a report to the Legislature prior to the start of the 2008 legislative session that summarized the efforts of the members and State and community partners to improve screening efforts.

We applaud the Legislature's initiative to address the value and importance of childhood screening and early identification and intervention for developmental delays. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2051.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator

LATE

THE SENATE
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE 2008
STATE OF HAWAII

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
FROM: PAUL TOMIYASU, Deaf Individual
DATE: 1/31/08

REGARDING: **SB BILL 2051**, APPROPRIATES FUNDS FOR HEARING AND
VISION SCREENING FOR NEWBORNS, CHILDREN AND
TEENAGERS.

I am in favor of this measure. I thought that these procedures were already a part of each newborn. Children that enter school go to the doctor to get shots and are checked for various health issues. I know it takes money to do these important functions and I approve of it for the sake of children that can be helped early to understand their special needs.

Thank you,

Francine Aona Kenyon
Aha KULI IKE KOKUA
2520 Jasmine Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
fkennyon09@sprintpcs.com

LATE

Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 1:30 pm
Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY
TO
SENTATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
ON
SB 2051, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Aloha, Chair Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Vice-Chair Les Ihara, Members and Friends:

My name is Francine Kenyon. I am a long-time advocate and volunteer consultant for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind people of the State of Hawaii, and I wear many hats.

I support SB 2051, RELATING TO HEALTH that appropriates funds for hearing and vision screening for newborns, children, and teenagers. Screening is important as an early intervention tool to will help prepare the parents provide better for education for their children with hearing or/and vision loss.

My mother contracted German measles after the 23rd week of her pregnancy. No social worker met with her to discuss the possibility of having a child with disability. Mom was worried and did not know what to expect. The doctor checked me and found nothing wrong with me. At first Mom was happy that I was normal and healthy, but a year later when she accidentally dropped the pots and pans and noticed that I didn't react. She suspected something was wrong so she dropped the pots and pans again. I didn't move at all so Mom knew that I was deaf. She took me to the doctor who verified my condition. Mom spent years searching for a better education and better lifestyle for me. My parents provided home schooling, and I began to read the books at the age of 4. Like my mother, many parents are not prepared to raise newborns with disabilities. It would be helpful to have early intervention to screen for hearing and vision screening problems in children and teenagers to ensure they receive better education and training.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill to ensure early intervention to assist parents plan for better education for newborns, children and teenagers who have hearing and vision problems.

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to testify on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Francine Aona Kenyon
Deaf Advocate & Consultant



DISTRICT 50 • HAWAII

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS



We Serve

We Serve

LION IPDG MERVIN WEE • (808) 395-2883 • (808) 228-8414
348 HANAKOA STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96825-2232 • mervwee@hawaii.rr.com

January 31, 2008

Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services & Public Housing
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

Dear Senators Chun Oakland, Ihara and Members of the Committee:

Relating to: S. B. No. 2051, Relating to Health
Public Hearing: Thursday, January 31, 2008, 1:30 PM

I am Lion Mervin Wee, Immediate Past District Governor, District 50 and this is Lion Melvin Nakamura, Past International Director, Lions Clubs International. We are here representing the Lions and Lions Clubs in District 50 to speak in favor of S. B. 5021.

The Lions Club of Hawaii, District 50, of the International Association of Lions Clubs supports the passage of S. B. 2051. We find that the purpose of the bill to appropriate funds for hearing and vision screening in a child's early years to be most important.

For many years, the Lions Clubs in Hawaii have been conducting vision screening at many of the pre-schools and elementary schools in Hawaii. We have experienced the value of early detection, early intervention and treatment. Through these screenings, we have found many children to be in need of further professional assistance, which if it had been left undetected and untreated would have severely affected their ability to learn in school and to flourish in their personal growth. We know that through screening and early identification, referral and treatment, a child will have a much better opportunity to learn in the school environment.

The Lions of Hawaii stand ready to be of assistance in the development and implementation of this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

LATE

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, January 31, 2008, 1:30 p.m.

Measure Number: SB 2051– RELATING HEALTH

Name of Committee(s): Senate Human Services and Public Housing (HSP)

Number of copies the Committee is requesting: 1 copy to Committee Clerk

Room Number: 226



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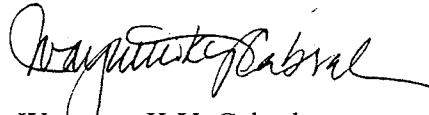
LATE

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Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral
Executive Administrator