

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



SB 2672 – RELATING TO GRADUATE LOAN PROGRAMS

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
January 30, 2008 at 1:15 pm

by

Karen C. Lee  
Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs  
University of Hawaii System

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
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Karen C. Lee

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System

SB 2672 – Relating to Graduate Loan Programs

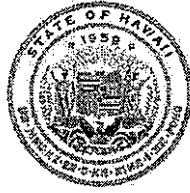
Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of SB 2672 Relating to Graduate Loan Programs, is to establish a five-year pilot loan program and special fund for qualified students in the areas of physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, and school psychology. Qualified individuals must also agree to work in those fields in the State of Hawai'i for at least three years after completion of the graduate program.

The University of Hawai'i appreciates the intent of the Legislature to provide financial support to students who wish to become rehabilitation therapists and incentives to work in the State of Hawai'i. However, the University cannot support this bill because of the extensive administrative hardship this will place on our various offices to track non-UH students in their programs and beyond graduation over three years, and to administer such a loan. With our current capacity of staffing and resources, we would not be able to develop and maintain such a program at the appropriate level.

The private banking and loan industry sector may be a more appropriate place in which to initiate such a program. With limited resources, the University would not be able to adequately administer the program as would a private corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**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 30, 2008

The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:  
SUBJECT: SB 2672 – 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 and University of Hawaii.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT AND INTENT OF SB 2672**. SB 2672 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wavrette K.Y. Cabral".

Wavrette K.Y. Cabral  
Executive Administrator



CENTER ON DISABILITY STUDIES

January 29, 2008

TO: The Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair and  
The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
And all Committee Members

**Subject: SB 2672, 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

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on 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 SB 2672 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 SB 2672

Sincerely,

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

RECEIVED

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
JAN 29 2008



January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am a member on the Hawaii 3-5 Transition 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 SB 2672 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.

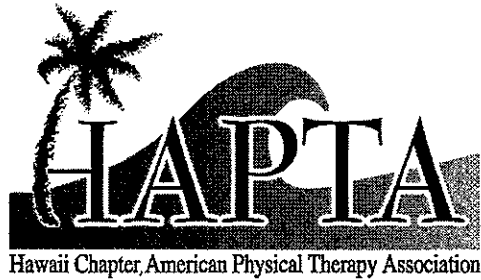
I ask you to support SB 2672.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Jayne  
Executive Director  
Imua Family Services

**Testimony by:  
Lucy Lessard, PT**

**SB 2672, Graduate Loan Programs  
Sen EDU Committee  
January 30, 2008 - 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 225**



**Position: Support**

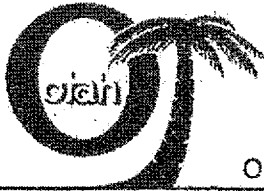
Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Senate EDU Committee:

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.



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

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

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

**SB2672, Relating to Graduate Loan Programs**

**Senate EDU Committee**

**Wednesday, January 30, 2008**

**Room 225, 1:15 pm**

**Position: Support Intent**

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Senate EDU 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.

Rehabilitation of traumatic brain injuries is a long-term process. Families, educators, and general public continue to need education about traumatic brain injury and its residual effects on the individual's ability to be independent at home and in the community.

There are Hawaii students interested in OT or PT education but find the cost prohibitive. Thus, they often enroll in another health care related program in Hawaii. The forgiving of X % of the loan is a good incentive to interested students.

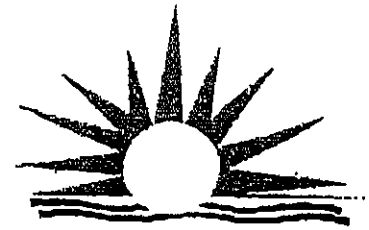
Currently, OT and PT professions require a Master's degree at entry. Upon completion of the educational requirements of a program, students must complete a clinical internship. This can be up to 6 months after completion of the educational program. After completing the clinical internship, OTs must take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

Allowing 6 months after graduation to begin repayment may be too soon. It depends as to when the school graduates the student. These cases may fall in the exception to the rule. Rather than 6 months after graduation, consider 6 months after initial employment as an occupational therapist (OTR).

On page 2, lines 21-22 and 3, lines 1-4, it states that programs are "approved by the board of physical therapy, the director of commerce and consumer affairs, and the board of speech pathology....." Occupational therapy doesn't have a board under DCCA. We propose the amended language: "graduation from an accredited occupational therapy educational program recognized by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

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





*Aloha Special Technology Access Center*

710 Green Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2119

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am the Executive Director of ALOHA Special Technology Access Center, Inc. I am writing in wholehearted support of SB 2672 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 nineteen 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 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

*Providing*

*Technology*

*For*

*Persons*

*With*

*Disabilities*

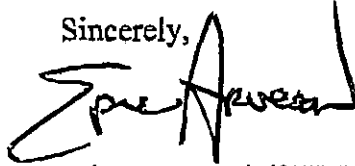
Voice

808-523-5547

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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Arveson". The signature is stylized with a large initial "E" and "A".

Eric Arveson, MSW, MPH

Executive Director

ALOHA Special Technology Access Center, Inc.

Hearing: Wednesday, January 30, 1:15 room 225

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672—Rehabilitative and Related Services  
Graduate School Loan Program

Hearing: Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 1:15pm, room 225 (Committee on Education)

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am a social worker at Easter Seals. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

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

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on 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 SB 2672

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

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on 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 SB 2672 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 SB 2672

Sincerely,

Clayton Takemoto, LSW, ACSW



Creating solutions, changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawai'i

January 28, 2008

Administrative Offices  
710 Green Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Phone: 808.536.1015  
Toll Free: 888.241.7450  
Fax: 808.536.3765  
www.eastersealshawaii.org

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Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Ronnda S. Black, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Harvey Henderson, Jr.  
Asst. Secretary

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

Carleton Williams  
Treasurer

I am the parent of a child with CMV who is deaf and multi-handicapped.. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672, relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

Christopher Dang  
Asst. Treasurer

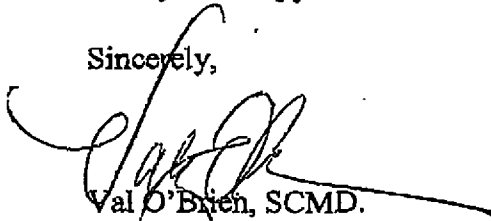
My child received early intervention services through Easter Seals Hawaii since my child was eight months old. Early intervention services assist children between birth and age three reach age appropriate developmental skills and aid families in achieving their goals for their children. These services are provided by physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, and special educators. My child and family have benefited from the services of highly qualified and dedicated professionals who support my child's development.

- Sue Berk
- Ron Brandvold
- Anna Egent-Sneed
- Mark Falmet
- Diane Mastert
- Jeff Henarik
- Al Hoffman
- Jean Johnson, Ph.D.
- Terry Lee
- Dr. Francis Liu
- Mark Matheson
- Robert Moore
- Dean Nagatoshi
- Valery O'Brien
- Dr. Sue Palumbo
- Don Robbs
- Mike Trapasso
- Alan Wong
- Lee Wilson

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 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,



Val O'Brien, SCMD.  
Marketing Director, Kamehameha Investment  
Board of Directors  
Easter Seals Hawaii

Fred Iida  
Emeritus



Creating solutions, changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawai'i

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
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Twenty-fourth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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Harvey Henderson, Jr.
Asst. Secretary

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Treasurer

Christopher Dang
Asst. Treasurer

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Dr. Francis Liu
Mark Matheson
Robert Moore
Dean Nagatashi
Valery O'Brien
Dr. Sue Palumbo
Dan Robbs
Mike Trapasso
Alan Wong
Lee Wilson

Fred Iida
Emeritus

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672, 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. 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 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

Rhonda S Black (handwritten signature)

Rhonda S. Black

Professor of Special Education, University of Hawaii
Board of Directors
Easter Seals Hawaii



Creating solutions, changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawai'i

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
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- Terry Lee
- Dr. Francis Liu
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- Robert Moore
- Dean Nagatoshi
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- Mike Trapasso
- Alan Wang
- Lee Wilson
- Fred Iqg  
Emeritus

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

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I ask you to support SB 2672.

Sincerely,

Francis Liu, MD  
Board of Directors  
Easter Seals Hawaii





Creating solutions, changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawai'i

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- Jeff Henarix
- Al Hoffman
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- Valery O'Brien
- Dr. Sue Palumbo
- Don Robbs
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- Alan Wong
- Lee Wilson

Fred Ida  
Emeritus

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
 Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
 Committee on Education  
 Twenty-fourth Legislature  
 State Capitol  
 415 S. Beretania Street  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Administrative Offices**  
 710 Green Street  
 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
 Phone: 808.536.1015  
 Toll Free: 888.241.7450  
 Fax: 808.536.3765  
 www.easterseals-hawaii.org

**Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672**

**Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:**

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Easter Seals Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672, 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. 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 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

Harvey E. Henderson, Jr.  
 Board of Directors  
 Easter Seals Hawaii



Creating solutions, changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawai'i

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website: www.EasterSealsHawaii.org

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education, Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

On behalf of Easter Seals Hawaii and the thousands of families we have served over the past 62 years of our existence in the state, I am submitting testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the passage of SB 2672. 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.

Early Intervention services are *mandated* by federal law and waiting lists are not permitted – all identified infants/toddlers and families must be served within mandated timelines. The Department of Health (DOH) contracts private providers such as Easter Seals Hawaii to provide these services utilizing physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, special educators and social workers. One of the major challenges in providing these types of services is the limited number of qualified professionals available in Hawaii. The pool of therapists with the highest professional standards must be increased.

SB 2672 will improve opportunities for students to earn graduate degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy (undergraduate okay), speech-language pathology, or school psychology and return to Hawaii to work. This bill will help increase the number of available therapists to serve Hawaii's children and adults with developmental delays or disabilities.

I would like to offer an amendment to the bill to allow an undergraduate degree in Occupational Therapy be included in the bill as a bachelor's degree is authorized to perform services in Hawaii. Also, I strongly suggest that the language be changed to ensure that employment requirements include any state agency, a nonprofit providing services under a state contract, and a nonprofit healthcare organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB 2672. I can also be reached at 536-1015, for any further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Norman T. Kawakami,  
Sr. VP of Operations

O'AHU  
Adult Day Health Program  
at Central Union Church

Assistive Technology  
Program

Ewa Adult Day  
Health Program

Family Support Services  
Program

Kailua Early Intervention  
Program

Kapolei Early Intervention  
Program

O'ahu Support Services

Partnerships in Community  
Living Program

Sultan Early Intervention  
Program

Youth Services Program

Waipahu Early Intervention  
Program

KAUAI'

Kauai' Early  
Intervention Program

Kauai' Support Services

Kauai' Youth Services

HAWAII'

Hilo Early  
Intervention Program

Hilo Support  
Services Program

Hilo Youth Services

MAUI COUNTY

Adult Day Health Program  
at Hale Hauoli

Support Services Program

Partnerships in Community  
Living Program

Youth Services



*Creating solutions, changing lives.*

**Easter Seals Hawai'i**

January 28, 2008

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**Dr. Sue Palumbo**  
**Don Robbins**  
**Mike Trapasso**  
**Alan Wong**  
**Lee Wilson**

**Fred Ida**  
*Emeritus*

**Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair**  
**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**  
**Committee on Education**  
**Twenty-fourth Legislature**  
**State Capitol**  
**415 S. Beretania Street**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

**Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672**

**Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:**

I am the parent of a child with special needs.. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672, relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

My child received early intervention services through Easter Seals Hawaii since my child was four months old. 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. My child and family have benefited from the services of highly qualified and dedicated professionals who support my child's development.

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 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

**Susan Berk**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Easter Seals Hawaii**



Creating solutions, changing lives.

Easter Seals Hawai'i

January 28, 2008

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Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
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Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am the parent of a child with autism spectrum disorder. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672, relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

My child received early intervention services through Easter Seals Hawaii. 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. My child and family have benefited from the services of highly qualified and dedicated professionals who support my child's development.

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 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

M. Suzanne Sylvester-Palumbo, DVM  
Board of Directors  
Easter Seals Hawaii

Fred Iaa  
Emeritus

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am a SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST at Easter Seals Hawaii's Kapolei Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672 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 SB 2672.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Alisa Posenecker in black ink, followed by the text "MS CCC-SLP".

Alisa Posenecker, MS, CCC-SLP

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am a SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/Program Manager at Easter Seals Hawaii's Kapolei Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672 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.

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I ask you to support SB 2672.

Sincerely,

*Janice Shintani, MS, CCC-SLP*

Janice Shintani, M.S., CCC-SLP

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
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Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

I am a SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST at Easter Seals Hawaii's Kapolei Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672 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.

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I ask you to support SB 2672.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Freitas, MA, CCC-SLP

January 28, 2008

Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education  
Twenty-fourth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: In support of Senate Bill (SB) 2672

Dear Senator Sakamoto, Senator Tokuda and Committee on Education:

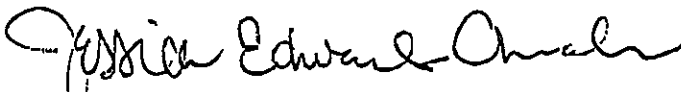
I am an Early Intervention Teacher at Kapolei Early Intervention Program. I am writing in strong support of SB 2672 relating to Rehabilitative and Related Services Graduate School Loan Program.

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.

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I ask you to support SB 2672.

Sincerely,



Jessica Edwards Chandler, M.A. SPED



On behalf of the Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association membership, I want to express our support for SB 2672 relating to Graduate Loan Programs. This bill would help to support incentive and recruitment issues pertaining to the bill's targeted professions here in Hawaii.

Anne Horner

Hawaii Speech-Language-Hearing Association President