

# HB761,HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

Report Title: Intellectual Disabilities

Description: Changes references to "mental retardation" or like terms in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to "intellectual disability" or like terms. Effective July 1, 2030; provided that the amendment made to section 321-11.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by this Act shall not be repealed when that section is reenacted on June 30, 2014, by section 8 of Act 21, Special Session Laws of Hawaii, 2009. (HB761 HD1)

Companion:

Package: Deaf and Blind

Current Referral: HMS, JDL

Introducer(s): MIZUNO, AWANA, BROWER, JORDAN, YAMANE



**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 22, 2011

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

**SUBJECT: HB 761 HD1 – RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.**

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

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 761 HD1**. The purpose of the bill is to change references to “mental retardation” or like terms in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to “intellectual disability” or like terms.

**HB 761 HD1 is a housekeeping measure; complies with Federal law (P.L. 111-256) signed by President Obama on October 5, 2010; is not intended to change coverage, eligibility, rights, responsibilities or definitions referred to in the amended provisions; and does not request any appropriation amount.**

The Council is aware that the Legislature may be concerned with the costs that may be associated with this bill. To address the fiscal concern, the Council offers the following amendments for the Committee’s consideration:

- 1. Delete Section 18 on Page 7, lines 19-22, and Page 8, lines 1-2. This section states, “Not later than January 1, 2015, the director of any department affected by the amendments in this Act shall adopt or amend, as necessary, rules pursuant to chapter 91, to make the terminology and references in the relevant Hawaii Administrative Rules consistent with the amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes made by this Act.” The intent would be for Departments affected by this Act to change references to mental retardation or like terms to intellectual disability or like terms as they adopt or amend their respective Hawaii Administrative Rules.**

**2. Add language to the bill to indicate that changing references to mental retardation or like terms to intellectual disability or like terms would be done as new volumes of the affected Hawaii Revised Statutes are updated.**

P.L. 111-256 is also known as “Rosa’s Law” named after Rosa Marcellino, a nine-year old girl with Down’s Syndrome who worked with her mother, Nina, and their state representative who led the effort to pass legislation in Maryland changing the word “mental retardation” to “intellectual disability.”

Rosa’s law replaces the term “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability” in Federal education, health, and labor laws. The law states that for purposes of the amended statutes and implementing regulations, a reference to an “intellectual disability” shall mean a condition previously referred to as “mental retardation” and a reference to “individuals with intellectual disabilities” shall be a reference to those previously referred to as “individuals with mental retardation.”

The American Association on Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) defines intellectual disability as “a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers everyday social and practical skills. This disability originates before the age of 18.”

HB 761 HD1 follows a national movement led by self-advocates to use people-first language that is less offensive and more respectful, and to eliminate the negative stigma that is associated with the term mental retardation or like terms. The Council has been working with the Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) comprised of individuals with intellectual disabilities and the Maternal Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program in the movement to remove the “R” word and replace it with intellectual disabilities. SAAC members were overwhelmingly eager to make the change from the terms “mental retardation,” “mentally retarded,” and “retarded” that they consider being hurtful and offensive, to a term “intellectual disabilities” that is considered to be more positive and respectful to them.

HB 761 HD1 seems to be such a simple measure to remove the term “mental retardation” and like terms and replace it with “intellectual disabilities.” Moreover, its outcome would be significant and have far reaching effects in:

- 1) Moving in the right direction in complying with P.L. 111-256,
- 2) Changing how we refer to individuals with intellectual disabilities,
- 3) Promoting more respectful and people-first language,

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Page 3  
March 22, 2011


- 4) Promoting positive attitudes and perceptions of individuals with intellectual disabilities,
- 5) Eliminating the negative stigma associated with mental retardation or like terms, and
- 6) Treating individuals with intellectual disabilities with greater dignity and respect

We applaud the Legislature's initiative through HB 761 HD1 that recognizes that individuals with intellectual disabilities are people first, and that they have the right to be included and respected in society.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

Sincerely,

  
Liz Ann Salvador  
Chair

  
Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW  
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
KAUAI OFFICE  
3060 EIWA STREET, ROOM 207  
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766  
TELEPHONE: (808) 274-3484  
FAX: (808) 274-3485

March 22, 2011

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB 761 HD1 - RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eleanor Doi, Program Specialist submitting testimony in strong support of HB 761 HD1 on behalf of the Kauai Developmental Disabilities Committee.

Amending the word "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability" is the best suggestion we've heard in a long time. The term "mental retardation" is demeaning to people with cognitive challenges that need to be viewed in a new light. The term "intellectual disability" is a better term to describe individuals and would certainly take out words that can be so hurtful them.

The word "retard" in Webster's Dictionary means, "To slow the progress of: delay". In our society today the word is often abused by people, and used in a demeaning way to others, making the true meaning of the word forgotten. For the sake of those of us in our society with "delays" thank you for changing the "R" in our vocabulary.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony. Thank you so much for hearing the bill and ask that you support the passage of **HB 761 HD1**.

Sincerely,  
Eleanor Doi  
Program Specialist



**STATE OF HAWAII**

**STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

MAUI OFFICE  
54 HIGH STREET, THIRD FLOOR  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TELEPHONE: (808) 984-8218  
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March 22, 2011

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

**HB 761 HD1 – RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.**

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, my name is Mary Matsukawa. I am staff to the Maui Developmental Disabilities Committee, a standing subcommittee of the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of **HB 761 HD1**.

Our committee would like to change the Hawaii Revised Statutes by removing the term "mental retardation" or like terms wherever it appears and replacing it with the terms "intellectual disabilities" or like terms.

We feel this change will update the language currently used in State statutes and remove a term from Hawaii law that has often been used in a derogatory and demeaning manner.

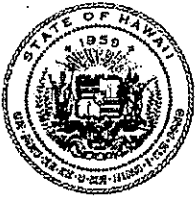
Language is important and we feel the word "retard" now carries a negative stigma in our vocabulary. We feel HB 761 HD1 will change attitudes and promote that individuals with intellectual disabilities be treated with dignity and respect. We support the intent of the bill to change only the terms used and not change coverage, eligibility, and/or definitions referred to in the sections of the law being amended.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Page 2  
March 22, 2011

The changes we are supporting are in keeping with the new federal law (Public Law 111-256 also known as Rosa's law) signed by President Obama on October 5, 2010 that changes the language used in federal health, education, and labor laws from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disabilities."

We are excited about this opportunity to change our State language to reflect the forward thinking of the Federal Language.

Sincerely,  
Mary Matsukawa  
Program Specialist



## DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 22, 2011

### TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 761, HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

The Disability and Communication Access Board supports House Bill 761, HD1 to change the term "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability" in the statute.

We have consistently sought to have politically correct, people first language in the statute that more appropriately reflects the current and evolving terminology in our field. National organizations and consumer advocacy groups have moved away from the term "mental retardation" and this bill mirrors the national trend.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG  
Chairperson  
Legislative Committee

FRANCINE WAI  
Executive Director





## **HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER**

900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1040, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: [info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org](mailto:info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org) Website: [www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

### **THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

#### **Committee on Human Services Testimony in Support of H .B. 761, HD1 Relating to Intellectual Disabilities**

**Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 1:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 016**

Chair Chun-Oakland and Members of the Committee:

I am Louis Erteschik, Staff Attorney at the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and am testifying in support of this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to substitute the term "intellectual disabilities" in various sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes where currently the term "mental retardation" appears. While this does not change or affect substantive rights of individuals, the symbolic effect is nonetheless significant and worthy of support.

As our society has evolved, we have come to see terms as "mentally retarded" to be outmoded to say the least and reminiscent of a prior day when it may have, intentionally or unintentionally, contained hurtful connotations. Certainly the term "intellectual disabilities" seems to be a more correct and accurate description of the condition. Additionally, it is our belief that sometimes language and terminology can lead to self fulfilling conduct and all indications from discussions with advocates in the disability community are that this change can provide a greater feeling of self worth and empowerment to this population. That alone, is a worthy goal and a very strong reason to support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

April Mira  
1174 Waimano Home Rd., #207  
Pearl City, HI 96782

March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities.

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My Name is April Mira. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

When I was 8 years old, people used to tease me and call me "mentally retarded", "you retard", "you mental", "you stupid", and "dumb". Kids used to tease me a lot and it made me feel uncomfortable. It was very hurtful and I cried a lot and did not want to go to school any more. I used to run away, cry in the corner at school. The kids at school tried to fight me, throw food and water at me, spit at me, and throw rubbish at me. I am now afraid to go out by myself.

Now when I see other people who have a disability, I do not tease, I help them. If this bill passes, I will be happy for the change and for the kids now that have a disability so they don't get teased in the future and aren't afraid like me.

Thank You,  
April Mira

**HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities**

Senate Committee on Human Services Hearing  
Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
1:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Michael Tamanaha

Subject: **Testimony in Strong Support of HB 761, HD1**

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

I am in strong support of HB 761, HD1 which will bring Hawaii in alignment with "Rosa's Law enacted by the U.S. Congress and signed by President Barrack Obama in October 2010. Rosa's law replaces the term "mental retardation" with intellectual disabilities" in federal health, education and labor laws.

This change reflects the desire of individuals with intellectual disabilities to eliminate the stigma and preconceived limitations that have been associated with the word "mental retardation." The term has been used to degrade and segregate individuals through history and school children have been influenced by the entertainment media and society to unwittingly perpetuate the term to tease and hurt their peers.

Even prominent individuals such as the President's former chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, have used the word in heated moments without discerning the inappropriateness of the word. In Emanuel's situation, he was appropriately chastised but learned from his experience and has become an advocate for reform.

Change starts with the way we use words and passage of HB 761, HD1 is a step in the right direction. If everyone, including our elected leaders takes advantage of a teaching moment to educate family, friends and acquaintances who are heard using the word "retarded" of the impact on people and the need to use "intellectual disabilities", we would be generating an enormous potential for positive change in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Debbie Rivers  
2790 Kahaloa Drive, #802  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

March 22, 2011

### HB 761 HD1 -RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

My name is Debbie Rivers. I am a person with depression and anxiety disorder, and I also have cerebral palsy. As a long-time member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and a person with a disability, I am here today to provide testimony in strong support of HB 761 HD1 to get rid of the "R" word and replace the label of mental retardation with intellectual disability.

Throughout my life I have heard the word "mental retardation", "retarded", "mental". Some people assume that I am less than others. I have been called "mental" many times and it really hurts my feelings and it has many negative connotations to it. These words that I have mentioned have become part of every day language in conversation, jokes, even part of the dictionary, and laws. There are many words that are in our history such as the "N" word, the "F" word, and unfortunately we all know what these words are referring to. But there have been positive changes such as people being referred to as Afro American or to give a local example, the Shriner's Hospital. Shriner's Hospital finally changed their name to Shriner's Hospital for Children. Every time I would pass Shriner's in the past, the word crippled made me cringe and sad because they are just kids that need help with their orthopedic conditions. With the new construction of the hospital came the positive change from crippled children to just children. When I first saw this it made me smile and happy and I said to myself, yes finally they changed the word.

We all have to remember that we are all people first and in society we all have labels whatever is your job title or lack of a job title, ethnic background, disability, or ability. It is time for a change to get rid of the "R" word in the state law not just to follow suit with Rosa's law, but to show aloha and celebrate our uniqueness and diversity. The time is now to get rid of the "R" word and to change it with a person with an intellectual disability.

Thank you and aloha for this opportunity to testify and please pass HB 761 HD1.

Debbie Rivers

Jonathan Ahina  
84-757 Kiana Pl. Unit 11A  
Waianae, HI 96792

March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**HB 761 HD1 - RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.**

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My Name is Jonathan Ahina. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I am in strong support of HB 761 HD1.

I joined SAAC (Self-Advocacy Advisory Council) in April 2009 and help out with the responsibility of my wife, whom is president for DD (Developmental Disabilities) Council and SAAC. My position in SAAC is being treasurer. One of the activities is to raise money by recycling cans and bottles for SAAC. I also attend day programs from Easter Seals.

I share strong feelings to removed the 'R' word in replacement of "Intellectual Disability".

Thank you,  
Jonathan Ahina

Lani Bartholomew  
83 Kihapi St. Apt. # 204  
Kailua, HI 96734  
(808) 861-7276

March 22, 2011

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

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

HB 761 HD1 – RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

My name is Lani L. Bartholomew. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I strongly support HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities.

When I went to Kaimuki Intermediate School I was in special education. I was called mental retarded, stupid, dumb, and retard. They even threw things at me, spit at me, teased me and called me names. They would grab my bag and take my bus tickets and throw things on the ground. The bullies would run by me and lift my dress. They were mean to me and I didn't like it. I felt ashamed and hurt. I even cried.

Thank you for taking time to listen to me.

Love,  
Lani L. Bartholomew

Bathey Fong  
1809 Bachelot Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State of Hawaii  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 761 HD1 – Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bathey Fong of Lanakila Pacific Inc.

**I am in strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

I hated when they were calling me handicap and retarded. They said that I couldn't read because I was retarded. They always tease me the way I walked too. They made me feel mad and upset when they called me retarded. Please pass the bill so they cannot call me retarded anymore.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bathey Fong

Sarah Ahina  
84-757 Kiana Pl. Unit 11A  
Waianae, HI 96792  
March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 761 HD1 — Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My Name is Sarah Ahina. Thank you for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to tell you that I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

When I was a little girl, my family did not know how I was doing in school. I was having a hard time with my schoolwork, my reading, and other schoolwork. My friends were passing the grades and I was left behind. I felt sad.

All my teachers were wondering how come Sarah is having a hard time with her schoolwork. All of my friends were calling one another “retarded”, “stupid”, and “mental”. My cousins called me all kinds of names that hurt me: “lolo”, “mentally retarded”, “stupid retarded mental case”, and “special-ed class”.

So it would be good if you changed the “mental retard” word to “intellectual disability.”

Mahalo Nui Loa,  
Sarah Ahina



Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State of Hawaii  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: HB 761 HD1 - RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2011, Human Services Committee, 1:45 p.m., Conference Room  
016

Dear Senator Chun-Oakland & Members of the Committee on Human Services:

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 761 HD1 Relating to Intellectual Disabilities. This bill helps us feel better about ourselves. No one likes being called Mentally Retarded. Please help us feel better about ourselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **Strong Support** of HB 761 HD1. I can be reached at 946-8335 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

*Joshua Smalley-Bower*

April Mira  
1174 Waimano Home Rd., #207  
Pearl City, HI 96782

March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities.

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My Name is April Mira. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

When I was 8 years old, people used to tease me and call me "mentally retarded", "you retard", "you mental", "you stupid", and "dumb". Kids used to tease me a lot and it made me feel uncomfortable. It was very hurtful and I cried a lot and did not want to go to school any more. I used to run away, cry in the corner at school. The kids at school tried to fight me, throw food and water at me, spit at me, and throw rubbish at me. I am now afraid to go out by myself.

Now when I see other people who have a disability, I do not tease, I help them. If this bill passes, I will be happy for the change and for the kids now that have a disability so they don't get teased in the future and aren't afraid like me.

Thank You,  
April Mira

Vaipapa Soliai  
[vaipapas@gmail.com](mailto:vaipapas@gmail.com)

March 22, 2011

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HB 761 HD1 – Relating to Intellectual Disabilities.

Good afternoon Senators Chun Oakland and Ihara and Members of the Committee:

My name is Vaipapa Soliai. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1**.

I was born with a disability that confines me to a wheelchair. I cannot walk and I need people to help me with my day to day living activities. I am a human being. As a human being I have and feel and get angry just as any person. I am not different just because of my appearance and the way I talk. Because of the way I appear and talk I do not like to be referred to as mentally retarded.

By changing the references in the Hawaii Revised Statutes people will see others and I as more than just mentally retarded but as exceptional people.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Vaipapa Soliai

Sol Ray Duncan  
1174 Waimano Home Rd.  
Pearl City, HI 96782

March 22, 2011

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

Dear Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara, and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

My Name is Sol Ray Duncan. Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

It should be passed to respect people with these differences. Thank you for hearing this bill.

Sincerely,

Sol Ray Duncan

Ryan Ho  
1809 Bachelot Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

March 22, 2011

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 761 HD1 – RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Good afternoon Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee.

My name is Ryan Ho of Lanakila Pacific Inc.

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you that I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

I don't like when someone calls me Mentally Retarded. It makes me feel sad, and it makes me go bananas. It feels bad to even hear the word M.R.

Sincerely,

Ryan Ho

Michelle Muralt  
1809 Bachelot Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Human Services Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 761 HD1 – Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

Good afternoon Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee.

My name is Michelle Muralt of Lanakila Pacific Inc. and I am in **strong support of HB 761 HD1.**

I don't like it when people calling me Mental Retarded. It makes me mad and it makes me sad. I want people to respect me so I can respect them too. And it makes me want to cry because they call me M.R.

I want the bill to pass because so the Retarded word will not be used anymore.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle Muralt

Ben S. Dalauideo II  
P.O. Box 373  
Papaikou, HI 96781  
Phone: (808) 964-2059

March 22, 2011

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
State of Hawaii  
Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 761 HD1 —RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben S. Dalauideo and I live in the Big Island with my parents. I have been a Developmental Disabilities Council member since May 2008.

I strongly support HB 761 HD1 relating to changing the "R" word from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability".

My feelings are hurt each time retardation is mentioned or someone calls me retarded. Please be sensitive and urge your members to support HB 761 HD1, too.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Ben S. Dalauideo II

## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** Nguyen Hue [envihue@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:52 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Cc:** envihue@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Senate Hearing on HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

Name:

Committee: Senate Human Services Committee

Date and time of the hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 1:45 p.m.

Measure number: HB 761 HD1

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 761 HD1, which changes the Hawaii Revised Statutes by removing the term “mental retardation” or like terms wherever it appears and replacing it with the terms “intellectual disabilities” or like terms. This current language in legislation in Hawaii is often used in a demeaning and derogatory manner. Times change and so should the language used to provide legal and legislative definitions being used to establish services for special populations, especially populations who have little voice in what they are called or how they are served. The proposed legislation will update the language currently used in State statutes and will emphasize a focus on the person first rather than the disability. It is my hope that a change in the language will also foster a change in attitudes and help to assure that individuals with intellectual disabilities are and will be treated with dignity and respect. My understanding of the bill is that the intent is to change only the terms used and not change coverage, eligibility, and/or definitions referred to in the sections of the law being amended. This bill is also in keeping with recently enacted Public Law 111-256, also known as Rosa’s law, which was signed by President Obama on October 5, 2010. Public Law 111-256 changes the language used in federal health, education, and labor laws from “mental retardation” to “intellectual disabilities.” Please support this change in Hawaii legislation to modernize the language relating to persons with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you,  
Nguyen Hue  
UH, Professor of Soil Chemistry  
1138 Hassinger st. Apt. 302  
Honolulu, HI 96822



## ChunOakland2 - Tyrell

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**From:** Duane Bartholomew [duaneb74@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2011 5:18 PM  
**To:** HMS Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Hearing on HB 761 HD1 - Relating to Intellectual Disabilities

Name: Duane P. Bartholomew, Board member, The Arc in Hawaii and parent of an adult child with intellectual disabilities.

Committee: Senate Human Services Committee

Date and time of the hearing: Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 1:45 p.m.

Measure number: HB 761 HD1

Dear Committee Members:

I strongly support HB 761 HD1, which changes the Hawaii Revised Statutes by removing the term "mental retardation" or like terms wherever it appears and replacing it with the terms "intellectual disabilities" or like terms. This current language in legislation in Hawaii is often used in a demeaning and derogatory manner, as my daughter experienced when she was in the public school system in Hawaii over 25 years ago. Times change and so should the language used to provide legal and legislative definitions being used to establish services for special populations, especially populations who have little voice in what they are called or how they are served. The proposed legislation will update the language currently used in State statutes and will emphasize a focus on the person first rather than the disability. It is my hope that a change in the language will also foster a change in attitudes and help to assure that individuals with intellectual disabilities are and will be treated with dignity and respect. My understanding of the bill is that the intent is to change only the terms used and not change coverage, eligibility, and/or definitions referred to in the sections of the law being amended. This bill is also in keeping with recently enacted Public Law 111-256, also known as Rosa's law, which was signed by President Obama on October 5, 2010. Public Law 111-256 changes the language used in federal health, education, and labor laws from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disabilities." Please support this change in Hawaii legislation to modernize the language relating to persons with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you,  
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