

**Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii**  
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The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
 The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
 Senate Committee on Human Services  
 and

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
 The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
 Senate Committee on Education  
 Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
 State Capitol  
 State of Hawaii  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: SUPPORT FOR SCR 136 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO  
 CONVENE A DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TASK FORCE TO REVIEW  
 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING PILOT PROJECTS,  
 AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY EARLY  
 CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SYSTEM IN HAWAII**

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Ihara, Tokuda and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii (LDAH) is a Hawaii nonprofit corporation whose mission is to enhance education, work and life opportunities for children and youth with disabilities by empowering them and their families through information, training and mentoring, and by public outreach and advocacy. LDAH supports SCR 136.

SCR 136 requests the Department of Health to convene a Developmental Screening Task Force to review Aloha United Way's (AUW) Early Childhood Developmental Screening pilot projects and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Center on Disability Studies' evaluation of those Early Childhood Developmental Screening pilot projects. SCR 136 also requests the Department of Health to submit to the Legislature a report on its findings and recommendations for the development of an integrated, universal early childhood developmental screening system in Hawaii.

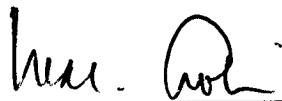
LDAH is one of the partner agencies that over the past two years participated in AUW's Ekolu Eha Ike Pono (EEIP) pilot project, which screens children ages 5 and younger in the Nanakuli and Waianae catchment areas for developmental delays and concerns, as well as hearing and vision problems. LDAH has observed first hand the effectiveness of these screenings -- approximately



25% of these children, who were never before screened, were detected to have developmental delays or concerns and/or hearing and vision problems. All of these children were referred to appropriate professionals and agencies for follow up services. We believe that this early intervention to address identified needs will significantly improve the child's ability to be "ready" for school and, thereafter, to be successful in school and as a contributing member of our community.

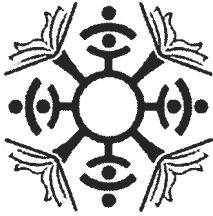
Accordingly, on behalf of LDAH we urge the Committees to pass SCR 136. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Very truly yours,



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NEAL K. AOKI  
President  
LDAH Board of Directors



# Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

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State Capitol  
State of Hawaii  
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**Subject: SCR 136 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TASK FORCE TO REVIEW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING PILOT PROJECTS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING SYSTEM IN HAWAII.**

Dear Senators Chun Oakland and Ihara, Tokuda and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

## Executive Director

Michael K. Moore

Learning Disabilities of Association of Hawaii (LDAH) appreciates this opportunity to provide testimony for the important purposes to be addressed under SCR 136 and wishes to demonstrate its strong support for this resolution. As the Chief Executive Officer for this organization, I can attest that the single most important activity we can do to benefit children in Hawaii is to identify and respond to their needs early. The benefits of early identification through universal screenings and intervention for identified needs are significant in several ways.

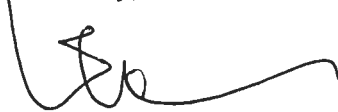
Undisputed scientific research demonstrates the absolute importance of early identification of needs in young children and the lifelong benefits of early intervention. Ideally, developmental, social emotional, hearing and vision needs should be detected and addressed prior a child starting school. Early intervention significantly improves a child's ability to be ready for school and children who start school "ready" in all areas, demonstrate lasting ability to be successful throughout school. Statistics show that these children are far more likely to participate in higher education and positive contributions to society. Cost studies show that every dollar spent on early identification and intervention saves approximately four dollars in services necessary when children's special needs are not discovered until they are older.

LDAH has administered the first pilot project funded under Aloha United Way (AUW) since January 2009, serving first the Waianae-Nanakuli area and later, all of Oahu. This project will have screened somewhere between 3,600 and 4,000 previously unscreened children age 5 and younger by the end of its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of operation. Developmental or social emotional delays, hearing or vision problems, and concerns identified by parents are being detected in approximately 25% of children through this project. Connection to follow-up services has been offered or provided for all of these children to resolve detected problems. Both AUW funded pilot projects in operation reflect a paraprofessional model of community-based (outreach) screening and service provision and referral that could be used to support pediatricians in reaching all children under age five in Hawaii.

SCR 136 would provide for a task force to organize existing and new resources to potentially reach all children in the state, five years of age and younger, providing them with early comprehensive screenings, treatment and connection to a medical home. Benefits to children would be considerable and long lasting. Cost savings for the state, over time, would be substantial.

Therefore, LDAH strongly supports SCR 136 and its intentions. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael K. Moore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael K. Moore  
Executive Director