

Testimony Submitted by:
Linda Elento, Kaneohe Constituent

LATE TESTIMONY

HB 2062 Music Therapy

Hearing: Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9:30am

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee on Culture & the Arts:

Where some therapies for children who need special education fail, music therapy will be effective in children reaching their special education goals and objectives in their federally-mandated Individualized Education Programs.

My son Jason who was born with Down syndrome has received music therapy to meet goals such as behavior, speech and language, social interaction and following directions. His strengths include responding to music and developing skills through music. His greatest need is communication and language development. Music therapy has proven to help him understand and to be understood by others.

Recently, the Department of Education's speech language pathologist no longer recommended her individual therapy sessions for my son because they were not effective. Music therapy has proven effective. But without the state's recognition and licensing of a music therapist, students such as my son will not be able to benefit from a special education as mandated under federal special education law.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB 2062 Music Therapy.