



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 28, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Committee on Health

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Interim Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 614 - RELATING TO CHILDREN**

Hearing: Friday, January 28, 2011; 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of H.B. 614 is to establish a hospital-based screening and assessment and intensive home visitation program under the Department of Health; appropriates funds from the tobacco settlement special fund and the temporary assistance to needy families fund.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill to establish an assessment and home visitation program within the Department of Health to provide a healthy start to at-risk infants and children under three years of age.

At this time, however, the Department does not have any additional TANF block grant funding available. The annual Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant amount is fully allocated and accounted for in the proposed FB 2011-2013 budget.

The Department advises that federal law prohibits the Department from transferring TANF funds to any entity other than the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Program and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program. TANF funds must be appropriated to the TANF State Agency, which is DHS. DHS may then authorize the expenditure of the appropriated TANF funds for the identified purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

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614  
**Testimony on HB ~~624~~, Relating to Children**

**Chair: Rep Ryan I. Yamane**

**Vice-Chair: Rep. Dee Morikawa**

**Friday, January 28, 2011 9:00 am**

**Conference Room 324**

Good Morning, Chair Rep Yamane, Vice-chair Rep Morikawa, members of the Health Committee.

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute, whose mission is to promote evidence based practice in prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. I am testifying on behalf of the Institute and also as a member of One Voice, a collaborative of organizations promoting a unified voice for young children in Hawaii.

In regard to a technical note on this bill, I believe there was not an intention to create a change in the Department of Health Statutes in regard to prevention of child abuse at this time. Rather, the intent is to begin to restore improved Healthy Start services which have been almost eliminated due to non-release of funds appropriated by the Legislature last year. I have attached some requested bill revisions to this testimony which address this issue and also minor language changes.

The purpose of this bill is to reinstate hospital-based assessments and to gradually rebuild improved intensive home visiting services for the highest risk families of newborns in communities across the state, to avert abuse and neglect and promote positive child development. We hope that this can occur on an incremental basis over the next two legislative biennium sessions.

My colleague from Child and Family Service will tell you more specifically about the current status of services. I want to focus on why preventing child abuse needs to be a priority in these tough economic times and why you should make a commitment to services for families with newborns at highest risk.

**Child abuse is a serious child health and social problem**

- About 80% of all serious abuse and neglect is among children birth to age five; 43% of all deaths are among children under one.
- Historically, among the confirmed child abuse cases in Hawaii, nearly half are among children under five,

## **Testimony on HB 624, Hawaii Family Support Institute P.2**

- Studies link early child abuse and neglect with a wide range of socio-emotional and health problems, beginning with attention deficit, aggressive behavior, or withdrawal problems in pre-school children,
- Prevent Child Abuse America estimates these problems nationally cost over \$100 billion annually. In Hawaii, these costs are reflected in budgets for special education, mental health and substance abuse treatment services, youth services and juvenile justice, corrections and burgeoning health care costs for diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer and other chronic diseases.

### **How does a program like Healthy Start actually work?**

Research has shown that a combination of factors such as abuse of the parent in childhood, social isolation, lack of social supports and life skills, substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health problems can place parents “at risk” for abuse and neglect of their children. Poverty and unemployment can be contributing factors.

Research based interview procedures are utilized to triage parents who may be at risk; these are used in non-stigmatizing approaches which are compliant with privacy requirements. Services are provided through frequent home visits. Staff work with parents to strengthen protective factors such as a strong bond with the infant and reduce risk factors such as domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health problems such as post partum depression. They teach parents activities to promote child development and help parents learn coping skills and to set goals to improve their own lives.

### **The Healthy Start program has been well evaluated and found to be successful**

- Correlations with child welfare data have consistently shown no abuse for 99 % of families. Many of the 1% confirmed cases have been for threatened danger only, i.e. they are confirmed to be at high risk but no abuse/neglect has occurred.
- A Hawaii Family Support Center study of children hospitalized for abuse and neglect at Kapiolani Medical Center (1991-1995) showed that children of families not served (2,728) were hospitalized over six times more frequently (13.86/1000) than those served by Healthy Start (1,738) and hospitalized at (2.3/1000).
- Outcomes of a 10 year Johns Hopkins randomized study conducted on Oahu (1998-2008) on 648 families: **While the experimental study found modest overall impact for most outcomes, it revealed substantial benefits for a key subset of targeted families.**

Benefits extended to both mothers and children and were sustained years after families had been in the Healthy Start Program (HSP).

- 31% of HSP mothers vs. 68% of control mothers were depressed.
- 9% of HSP families vs. 20% of control families had a substantiated CAN (Child Abuse and Neglect) report by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Re HB 624 Requested Changes to the bill**

From Gail Breakey, Hawaii Family Support Institute Ph: 226-4817

HB 624 Requested amendments:

P. Two, Line 12 **(add)** and in ensuring the state meets its public health responsibility of surveillance for needs assessment.

P. Four, Line 18 **(delete)** while offering other families a range of evidence based home visiting services based on their identified needs.

P. five, Line 1-3 **(delete)** all of sentence after SECTION 2

Line 4 **(delete)** 321

Line 8 **(delete)** Healthy Families America

Line 17 **(delete)** with highest priority given to those with scores of forty and above on  
The family stress checklist or parent survey and

P. six Line 3 **(delete)** Healthy Families America . **Replace** with "improved Healthy Start".

Line 5 **(delete)** and. **Add** and multi-disciplinary team approach

Line 12 **Delete entire sentence and renumber the items after this.**

Line 17 **Add** Insert:

Integrate model enhancements established and proven through the federally funded Hawaii Evidence Based Home Visitation project such as: initiatives developed for supervision and training; initiatives developed for identifying families for services; and the development of sound infrastructure to support home visitation, which include data management support, continuous quality improvement, and evaluation. By integrating these practices, home visiting guidelines will ensure that outcomes can be tracked, measured, and yield optimal results for families before taking home visitation to scale

Line 20 **(Delete)** "related to" and **replace** with "such as"

P. seven Line 1-3 **(Delete all)**

## **Testimony on HB 624, Hawaii Family Support Institute P. 3**

- 32% of HSP children vs. 54% of control children scored below norms for academic achievement.
- Among families where domestic violence was a problem, the study also showed 50% fewer incidents of domestic violence among Healthy Start served than control families when the children were two years old.

### **Current Research and Policy on Early Childhood**

A recent renaissance in early brain development research and national policy on early childhood underscores the earlier foresight of the Hawaii State Legislature in focusing on early childhood issues. For example, the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child published “The Science of Early Childhood Development: Closing the Gap Between What We Know and What We Do (Harvard University, 2007).” Comprised of leading neuroscientists, pediatricians, developmental psychologists and economists, the Council reviewed all current research and literature on early brain development and other child development findings. Based on this research, the publication presents the core concepts of early child development and their implications for policy and practice, for example:

1. Brain architecture is built from the bottom up beginning with the brain stem. Initial simple circuits and skills provide scaffolding for advanced circuits and skills over time.
2. Toxic stress in early childhood is associated with persistent effects on the nervous system and stress hormonal systems that can damage the developing brain architecture and lead to lifelong problems in learning, behavior and mental and physical health
3. Policy initiatives that promote safe, supportive relationships and learning experiences for infants and toddlers such as Healthy Start, create a strong foundation for later learning followed by greater productivity in the workplace and future solid citizenship
4. Later remediation for highly vulnerable children will produce less favorable outcomes and cost more than appropriate early interventions, beginning in the earliest years of life. The earlier the interventions are initiated, the greater the cost savings.
5. Child development is the foundation for community and economic development; capable children become the foundation for a prosperous, sustainable society.

So we have more evidence than ever that preventing child abuse is not only critical to the well being of vulnerable infants and the right thing to do. It also cuts future costs of a range of health and social problems and increases future productivity of people in our communities.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this bill and I hope you will support this important work.

January 27, 2011

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane and John M. Mizuno, Karen L. AWANA, and George R. Fontaine  
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings  
Twenty-Fifth Legislature  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 614 - Healthy Start; Home Visitation;  
Department of Health Appropriation

Hearing: Friday January 28, 2011

Aloha Committee Members and thank you for your time and attention in the urgent and critical matter of ensuring Healthy Start services are restored for our Hawaii children and families.

My name is Jani Sheppard and I am the CEO of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Maui Family Support Services provides Healthy Start on Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i. You have written testimony from community members, including the Honorable Mayor Alan Arakawa. I am testifying in strong support of HB 614 to restore critical Healthy Start statewide for hospital-based screening and assessment and intensive home visitation program under the Department of Health with funds from the tobacco settlement special fund and the temporary assistance to needy families fund.

Please know that we as advocates for children and families and specifically the excellent Healthy Start program, are keenly aware that these are at minimum, difficult time and that difficult decisions have to be made. We acknowledge and accept that as members of a community all have to give a little to ensure the health of our community.

In August 2008, the \$4 mil cut to DOH services resulted in a \$1.9 mil cut in funding from Healthy Start. For Maui County families this meant a cut of almost \$500,000 to the Healthy Start services. 19 employees were affected. 1/3 of the staff from Moloka'i lost their jobs in a community where their family members continue to struggle for employment and services given the economic challenges of the island. On Maui, 1/4 of the staff members were laid off and many others had their hours reduced from full time to part time. Instead of having the staff to serve 280 families, we now serve 13. Our Board of Directors allocated emergency savings just to keep a small program with all of the effective elements so that we would have the infrastructure and skilled staff to once again meet the needs of the children and families in our community in hopes that funding would again become available in this legislative session. The waiting list is long and demand continues to increase. Despite the elimination of funding, MFSS staff still do in-hospital, face-to-face screening

and assessment and eligible families are offered serves. However, of the Over 100 eligible families, we can only serve 13, soothe others go on a waiting list and we try to provide support services and information until there is an opening in the program.

We certainly understand the need to make difficult decisions for the good of the whole and the need for everyone to do their part until we as a community can come out on the other side of these challenging, stressful, and in some cases dire economic times. But we must find a way to do this that does not include putting our children at risk, affecting their healthy development, and in a way which strengthens families and our communities in an effective and cost effective way.

Despite the resources which have been cut, the referrals and need continues to rise with more families out of work and trying to manage the stresses while being responsible for the care and safety of their babies and young children.

As with most Department of Health Services, Healthy Start is not mandated yet thousands of families benefit from the program. By the time child abuse prevention and intervention services are mandated, harm has been done, the intervention is more intensive and more expensive. The cost benefit is 3:1 meaning that for every dollar we spend on this service, we, as a community taxpayers save \$3. Voluntary does not mean low risk...the risk is most often high, the event simply has not occurred yet. A service which is available for families to voluntarily accept support and serves to prevent child abuse instead of waiting until something happens is a positive statement regarding what we value as community, where we out our limited dollars, and what the families who accept the program value.

We do not have other services to take over or take the place of Healthy Start. The gap is in services without Healthy Start on Moloka'i and Lana'i, with extremely limited resources, Maui, including Hana, and other areas of our State with limited resources is widened, the safety net torn. The Enhanced Healthy Start service is already overworked and we have seen a 32% increase in referrals because of the absence of Healthy Start and the number increases every month. Enhanced is for families who have already entered the system.

The program is effective: Over 99% of the families who remain the program for 12 months or more are not confirmed for Child abuse or neglect; 100% of the families receive resources, support and assistance to strengthen the family and remove stressors, children receive medical home (doctor), John Hopkins research has clearly shown the programs effectiveness for anxious moms, and the list goes on which I am sure my colleagues and community members have and will continue to educate individuals on this indisputable fact. The current, comprehensive and accurate data from the research clearly shows an effective program.

In addition to the statistics, families show and report on the importance of this program and how the services have made a difference in their lives. How different their lives and the lives of their children would be without Healthy Start.

Please restore Health Start statewide. Again, I thank you for your time and attention and applaud you for your work and commitment during these times of challenge but also times of opportunity to make decisions which will have a positive and lasting effect on children, families and communities.

Respectfully,  
L. Jani Sheppard



Chief Executive Officer  
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Child & Family  
SERVICE

Private, nonprofit since 1899

**Testimony on HB 614, RELATING TO CHILDREN**

Chair: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane

Vice Chair: Rep. Dee Morikawa

Friday, January 28, 2011, 9 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Testimony submitted by: Howard S. Garval,

President & CEO, Child & Family Service

Good morning, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Committee members. I am Howard S. Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and largest human service nonprofit organization with services on every island and touching the lives of 40,000 Hawaii residents from keiki to kupuna each year. I am testifying in support of HB 614.

First of all, I want to extend big mahalos to this committee and the legislature for preventing the total elimination of Hawaii's nationally recognized model Healthy Start home visiting child abuse prevention program. Last session the Legislature restored \$1.5 million in TANF funds to keep the remaining two programs alive in the state. These two programs are: the Hilo program provided by the YWCA of East Hawaii and the Leeward Oahu program that Child & Family Service provides. I also want to thank you for the approval of the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund (Rainy Day Fund) bill that provided \$1.5 million for Healthy Start. The intent of the Rainy Day funds was to supplement the TANF funds, but the TANF funds were never released, and now the Rainy Day Funds are needed to keep these two remaining programs alive.

*Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children*

In the last two years the Maternal Child Health Branch (MCHB) of the Department of Health (DOH) has been implementing a federal Evidence-Based Home Visitation and program improvement grant it was awarded with Johns Hopkins University. Hawaii was one of only 17 states to receive this highly competitive grant because we were recognized for creating Healthy Start that was then replicated under the Healthy Families America banner in 37 other states. In awarding the grant to Hawaii, it was hoped that we would share our successes with the rest of the country. The great news is that this grant has helped move very good programs to an even higher level of excellence.

The Governor publicly touted Healthy Start during his campaign and was one of the original legislators to sponsor the first Healthy Start pilot program for which the Legislature appropriated funds. Now we have an administration that believes in Healthy Start which matches the Legislature's consistent support of the program.

This bill proposes to first restore the hospital-based screening and assessment program that was eliminated at the beginning of FY 10 when Tobacco Funds were not released by the prior administration. This is a critical component for Healthy Start to assess families for risk of child abuse **before** there is ever a report of child abuse. The first priority would be hospitals that serve the geographic areas of the two existing programs. We are proposing to restore intensive home visitation services for the highest risk families only and to refer lower risk families to existing community programs that focus on parent education and support. The home visiting services are voluntary since you cannot mandate such services for families with no substantiated report of child abuse/neglect. Ultimately, a statewide program of this nature would cost an estimated \$6.5 million compared to the previous statewide system at \$12 million. The Maternal Child Health Branch plans to evaluate the current two programs this year and expects outcome data that will demonstrate the efficacy of the work the two programs are doing. The plan will be to gradually build back the hospital-based screening and assessment and home visitation services in the highest need communities until a statewide program is restored. The metaphor I have been using is that of building a house. You start with a strong foundation and build up from there. I support

the approach that MCHB is taking to ensure that every Healthy Start program is being delivered at a high performance level with positive and verifiable impact. In that way a strong foundation is the platform for a solidly built house rather than one that is structurally unsound to complete the metaphor.

There is nothing more important that we can do as a state and for our keiki than preventing child abuse. At Child & Family Service our mission is **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children**, so I think you can see why we strongly support HB614. I am asking you to pass this bill so we can build back the nationally recognized model home visitation child abuse prevention program we call *Healthy Start*.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.



*The Official Sponsor of Birthdays*

January 27, 2011

Committee on Health  
Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**Hearing:**

January 28, 2011, 9:30 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329

**RE: HB 614**

**Testimony in Opposition**

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and members of the Committee on Health. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in opposition to HB 614 which would establish a hospital-based screening and assessment intensive home visitation program under the Department of Health, and would fund this program with an appropriation of \$3,000,000 from the Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund.

The American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc. is a community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer. This mission includes advocating for access to quality health care, medical and biomedical research, public health policy, and effective tobacco control measures. These priorities have helped us turn the corner in the battle against cancer. Cancer rates have been in a decline for the last 20 years. Because of this, some 767,000 deaths have been prevented.

The Society is aware of the need for the Healthy Start Program in Hawaii and recognizes that young parents need extra guidance, support, and education to raise healthy children. Babies born to teenage mothers are more likely to have insufficient health care, and fall victim to abuse and neglect. At the same time, we also see equal value in having a viable and sustainable tobacco control program dedicated to reducing the negative impact on the health of Hawaii's children and youth.

Hawaii's youth smoking rate is currently at 11.3%, the second lowest in the nation. Ten years ago our youth smoking rate was 38.4%. This dramatic reduction in smoking can be attributed to Hawaii's effective tobacco control efforts over the last decade. This effort was funded in most part by the tobacco settlement special fund via community grants to nonprofit organizations statewide.

The last four years have not been healthy ones for the tobacco settlement special fund. Because of the state's budget crisis the allocation into the fund has been cut from 25% to 12.5% to 6.5% today. This provides slightly more than \$2.8 million annually to the fund. While the fund is expected to expend \$8.3 million this year.

If this fund is not protected, there soon will be no money for tobacco control. We will then see major increases in both the adult and youth smoking rates. In the end, this increase will cost Hawaii hundreds of millions of dollars in tobacco related illness including cancer and heart disease.

We would recommend to the committee that you consider utilizing funds generated from the proposed sugar beverage tax measure, or future cigarette or other tobacco products tax to fund the Healthy Start program.

Both Healthy Start and our tobacco control program have positive impacts in our community. Let us act in a manner that preserves both. We would ask that this committee consider funding the Healthy Start program not from tobacco settlement funds but instead from other sources of tax revenues, perhaps the proposed tax on Sugar Sweetened Beverages.

Mahalo for allowing us the opportunity to provide these comments regarding HB 614.

Sincerely,



George S. Massengale, JD  
Director of Government Relations

## **Aloha United Way**

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
Fax (808) 543-2222  
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## **Cover Sheet**

**Testifying Agency:** Aloha United Way  
Susan Doyle, President & CPO  
Norm Baker, Vice President Community Building

**House Committee on Health**  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

**Friday, January 28, 2011 at 9:30 A.M.**  
**Conference Room 329**

**HB 614, Relating to Children**

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.**

## Aloha United Way

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 700  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-3938  
Telephone (808) 536-1951  
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January 27, 2011

House Committee on Health  
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Friday, January 28, 2011 at 9:30 A.M.  
Conference Room 329

### **HB 614: Relating to Children: Written Testimony in Support**

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Morikawa and Committee Members:

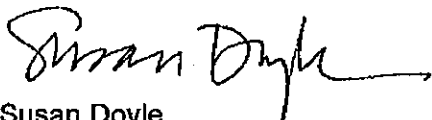
Aloha United Way strongly encourages your favorable consideration of HB 614 which establishes a hospital-based screening and assessment and intensive home visitation program under the Department of Health.

This program is intended to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote healthy child development for high-risk infants and toddlers. Research clearly shows that the first five years of a child's life are critical in brain formation and to later success in our education system. Currently, approximately 20,000 children are in special education tracks in our school system. Each of these children cost an average of \$14,000 more per year to educate than normal education track students. Early abuse and neglect are one of several predictors that a child will eventually require special education.

The hospital-based assessment and home visitation program being proposed is modeled after the very successful Healthy Start Program. Healthy Start proved conclusively that child and family strengthening activities can lead to normal early childhood development for high risk infants and toddlers and eventual success in the far less expensive normal education tracks.

HB 614 provides an excellent start on rebuilding the comprehensive set of programs needed to ensure each child is ready to learn when they begin their formal education. Aloha United Way strongly encourages favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Susan Doyle  
President & Chief Professional Officer

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.**



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**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 3:56 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** d.leikella@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB614 on 1/28/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 1/28/2011 9:30:00 AM HB614

Conference room: 329  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Debbie Butay  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [d.leikella@gmail.com](mailto:d.leikella@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2011

Comments:  
Our Hawaii Healthy Start Program (HSP) focuses on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It provides services to low income and vulnerable families with young keiki between the ages of 0-3.

Please restore Healthy Start in Maui County.

Thank you very much for your time.

Slh

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Senators and State Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: Urging the Legislature to support HB614 to also include  
Appropriations for Maui County.

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support Early Identification (EID) and Healthy Start (HS) Home Visitation services on the neighbor islands of Maui, Lanai and Molokai.

Did you know that Maui Family Support Services has been providing home-visitation services and EID services on Maui for over 20 years? Even after funding cuts, Maui Family Support Services is still visiting the hospital to talk to parents of newborn babies, is still visiting the families in their homes after the baby comes home, and continues to support these families with parenting education, community referrals, healthy family functioning education, early childhood development monitoring and preschool transition.

Dwindling non-profit agency funds will not be able to carry this valuable program for too much longer. Maui already has an up and running, comprehensive program modeled after Healthy Start. With State support, this neighbor island program will be able to continue to serve and grow with our community needs for many more years. Do you know how many children that would add up to be?

Maui, Molokai and Lanai are in dire need of funding support to expand and secure early childhood intervention and education programs through EID and Healthy Start. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Darlyn Kin Choy  
773 Kuhio Place  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Kinchoyd001@hotmail.com

# *Rafael del Castillo*

*Attorney at Law*

## **TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF H.B. 614**

From: Rafael del Castillo  
Attorney at Law  
Personal testimony, not on behalf of any client or organization

To: House Committee on Health,  
Hon. Ryan I. Yamane Chair, Hon. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Hearing: January 28, 2011, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 329  
2 paper copies requested

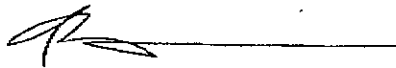
Emailed to: [HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Email time: 3:49 p.m., 1/27/2011

I **strongly support the enactment** of HB 614 into law. I have represented and represent several medically fragile children in my practice advocating on behalf of patients and their providers. That experience has more than convinced me that the cost benefit analysis weighs incalculably heavy in favor of effective prevention measures aimed at high risk infants and toddlers. Our budgetary constraints should not stand in the way of appropriations for this program. I appreciate the Committee Chair's introduction of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this essential measure.

Very truly yours,



Rafael del Castillo

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S

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Nora Etrata [Nora@mfss.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 3:34 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** Jani Sheppard  
**Subject:** Please support HB614

**Importance:** High

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Senators and State Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: Urging the Legislature to support HB614 and include  
Appropriations for Maui County.

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support Early Identification (EID) and Healthy Start (HS) Home Visitation services on the neighbor islands of Lanai, Maui and Molokai. These services are critically important to our neighbor islands for finding at risk families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a Healthy Start in life.

Before funding cuts, EID and the Healthy Start program helped ensure that Maui County's children had a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future.

The islands of Oahu and Hawaii already have up and running recipient programs and so does Maui County because the need is there. Without state support, the existing services on the neighbor islands will not be able to continue running on dwindling non-profit agency emergency funds.

Lanai, Maui and Molokai are in dire need of funding support to expand and secure early childhood intervention and education programs through EID and Healthy Start. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Leonora Etrata  
P.O. Box 620002  
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[nmbe81@yahoo.com](mailto:nmbe81@yahoo.com)

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H B 614

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January 27, 2011

Dear Legislators:

Our Hawaii Healthy Start Program (HSP) focuses on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It provides services to low income and vulnerable families with young keiki between the ages of 0-3.

The program has been incrementally cut starting in 2008 and again in 2009. Which incurred layoffs, decrease in families served, and finally by July 2009 th Maui, Molokai, and Lanai HS program funds were cut 100% along with others in the state. Lack of prevention could increase incidents of abuse and neglect in the the Child Protective Services(CPS)systems.

Maui Family Support Services already have the service running using our own emergency savings to do it and have never had a break in serves since funding the funding cut because our Board authorized the spending of emergency funds to have a program in place when funding was restored. We ran this program for over 20 years with funding and have continued with agency emergency savings, Maui United Way, and small foundation funding that is only for a year.

We ask you to please listen and respond to the needs of children and families of Hawaii These services are crucial to all of our communities.

Lynell gonsalves  
18 Kahoea Pl.  
Kula, Hi 96790

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Senators and State Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: Urging the Legislature to support HB614 to include  
Appropriations for Maui County.

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support Early Identification (EID) and Healthy Start (HS) Home Visitation services on the neighbor islands of Maui, Lanai and Molokai. These services are critically important to our neighbor islands for finding/talking with the "at risk" families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a Healthy Start in life.

Before funding cuts, EID and the Healthy Start program helped ensure that Maui County's children had a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future.

I currently work under Enhanced Healthy Start as the registered nurse and child development person. The number of families we currently serve have increased since Healthy Start has been cut back in 2009. We are seeing more and more families lacking the basic resources including housing, food, and safe childcare. They are running purely on survival alone and therefore their families are not getting the adequate support to enrich the lives. They are stuck going foodbank to foodbank while the food stamp benefits take over 2 months. They are living on other's couches and rooms to survive which they cannot even meet at the end of the month. We are servicing these types of families which used to (before the Healthy Start elimination) be lower numbers and now it has become exponential. Many of these Enhanced Healthy Start families would not be in the system if Healthy Start was in place once again. There is no other long term program for 0-3 years old besides Early Head Start which faces a long waitlist of willing parents who want the best for their keiki but the support and expansion money is not there. In turn, families who would have received the support to keep them from going into the CPS system through Healthy Start have gone without and our keiki are the ones suffering the consequences. The system needs to look back to see what worked and not reinvent the wheel so to speak. Please reinstate EID (screening all parents after delivery) and Healthy Start services on the outer islands especially.

The islands of Oahu and Hawaii already have up and running recipient programs and so does Maui County because the need is there. Without state support, the existing services on the neighbor islands will not be able to continue running on dwindling non-profit agency emergency funds.

Maui, Molokai and Lanai are in dire need of funding support to expand and secure early childhood intervention and education programs through EID and Healthy Start. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kathi Jones  
763 A Haiku Road  
Haiku, HI 96708  
808-298-9062 or 808-575-5141  
Kaikea777@yahoo.com

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**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Cynthia Koziolas [Cynthiak@mfss.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 3:48 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HB614

January 1, 2011

Dear Legislators:

Our Hawaii Healthy Start Program (HSP) focuses on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It provides services to low income and vulnerable families with young keiki between the ages of 0-3.

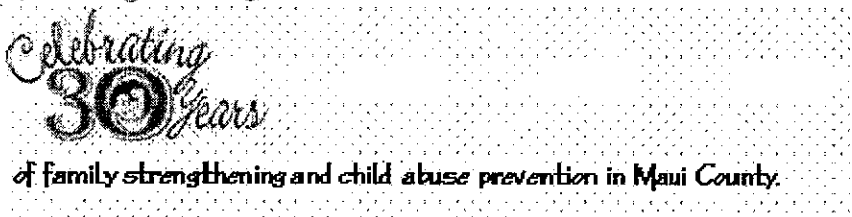
The program has been cut incrementally starting on 2008 by 17% and again earlier in 2009 by 30% incurring layoffs, decrease in families served, and finally by July 2009 the **Maui, Molokai, and Lanai** HS program funds were cut 100% along with others in the State. The lack of prevention threaten the increase in the Child Welfare System (CWS) for incidents of abuse and neglect.

At present, The 1998 “ Adverse Childhood Experiences” (ACE) study by Dr. Vicent J. Felitti shows a high correlation between ACE and drug use, teen pregnancy, depression, suicide, incarceration, and chronic disease in adults leading to premature death. Further studies show that for every dollar spent in prevention 4 to 7 are saved. One abused or neglected child, is one too many.

We ask you to please listen and respond to the needs of the children and families of Hawaii for compassion, vision, and for what is ‘Pono’. Please advocate for the reinstatement of funds to include the outer and rural islands, which have not been supported.

Cynthia Koziolas  
Kihei, HI 96753

Cynthia Koziolas, M.A.  
Clinical Specialist  
Maui Family Support Services  
808.242.0900 ext. 233  
[cynthiak@mfss.org](mailto:cynthiak@mfss.org)



The *Mission* of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. is to promote healthy family functioning by providing supportive services which build on family strengths. The *Prime Directive* is to utilize our collective resources toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

**morikawa2 - Grant**

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**From:** Daphne Ladia [ldias1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2011 3:39 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Support of HB614 - Resotring Healthy Start Services

The Honorable Senators and State Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: Urging the Legislature to support HB614 to include  
Appropriations for Maui County.

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support Early Identification (EID) and Healthy Start (HS) Home Visitation services within the State. These services are critically important for finding/talking with the "at risk" families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a Healthy Start in life.

As a pregnant 18 year old was invited to participate in the Healthy Start program. From my home visitor I learned the importance of prenatal care, immunizations, fist dentist visits, reading, and routines. She encouraged me to set goals, go to college and eventually move to Maui.

In 2001, I became a home visitor in the Healthy Start program. I've heard many stories and seen many families make great changes in their lives. These changes didn't happen because of me, **but because of a program that is focused on children and families**. I may have been the tool, but without the funding to provide the opportunity for these families to learn and grow those changes would not have happened.

Sometimes, these changes and growth are not measurable in the ways that we would like to see things measured, but that does not mean they are not real or unimportant.

In these tough times, it is understandable that we all must make sacrifices, however the reduction of these important services has left an impact in our Maui County community. In 2008 Healthy Start in Maui County served over 250 families a month. Over the next year services were decimated and eventually discontinued in Maui County. Only 43 families successfully transitioned into other Home Visiting programs, of those who were unable to transition to other services, many later became involved with Child Welfare Services and were then seen by the Enhanced Healthy Start program.

The EID program of Maui County saw over 95% of the families who gave birth a Maui Memorial Medical Center before this service was closed. Seeing over 1000 people a month, this important service provided a valuable service to our community. Not only in referring families directly to Healthy Start, but providing valuable resource information for every family seen. I have met many families who remember the EID team members visiting them at the hospital and have heard how much that information and support helped them in caring for their newborn.

As you decide on how to vote please consider the many families who have had a positive experience because of Healthy Start, many including myself have been able to make many positive changes in the lives of our families and children. I understand that funds are tight, but the cost of spending on prevention now, will save much more in intervention later. Restoring these funds Statewide will see a significant impact in the positive outcomes for children and families.

Sincerely,

Daphne Ladia  
Wailuku, Maui



~~CSB~~

HB 614

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January 27, 2011

Dear Legislators:

The State-wide Healthy Start Program (HSP) focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It provided services to at-risk and vulnerable families with young keikis between the ages of 0-3 years.

Before funding cuts, EID and the Healthy Start program helped ensure that Maui County's children had a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment, thus reducing expensive interventions by the State in the future. Because our Board authorized the spending of emergency funds, Maui Family Support Services, Inc. (MFSS) maintained provision of EID and Home Visiting services on Maui. There was no break in service when EID and Healthy Start Home Visiting Services were eliminated for Maui County. We have a waiting list of families who need services.

We ask you to please listen and respond to the needs of the children and families of Hawaii. Please advocate for the reinstatement of funds for the EID and Healthy Start programs, to include all neighbor islands.

Doris MacFarlane  
2663 Akalani Loop  
Makawao, HI 96768

S

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Senators and State Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: Testimony in Response to HB614

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support a truly statewide Early Identification (EID) and Healthy Start (HS) Home Visitation service. These services are critically important in identifying "at risk" families and providing subsequent in-home services to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a Healthy Start in life.

EID and the Healthy Start program helped to assure Maui County's children had a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future. Currently, Maui Family Supports Services, Inc. (MFSS) continues to provide EID and home-visiting services on a limited budget. The current program's scope of services is the same as before because the faces of the families we serve have not changed and neither has our Mission Statement ... "to use our collective resources toward the prevention of child abuse and neglect."

The families whose children have suffered child abuse and neglect have increased since the Healthy Start Program was cut in 2009. We see more and more families that lack the basic parenting skills and the needed resources to support the development of healthy and safe home environments for their children. Families seem to be expending their meager resources just to survive day to day, going from food bank to food bank, sleeping on couches and living in rooms, depending on the compassion of others. These are the faces of the families whose numbers have risen to become part of the Child Protective Service (CPS) system.

Many of the Enhanced Healthy Start families receiving services may have been able to avoid the CPS system if EID and Healthy Start home visiting were at its full capacity. There is no other program within Maui County for children between the ages of 0-3 years besides Early Head Start which requires families to meet specific eligibility criteria; many families are waitlisted for services.

Our State must look closely to see what works and not reinvent the wheel, because the "wheel" is turning here in Maui County. Support of EID screening of all new mothers (after delivery) and Healthy Start home visiting services would have instantaneous positive results on Maui. Without the State's support, this existing and successful service will not be able to continue.

Sincerely,

Glenna Okamura, M.S.W.  
608 Kumulani Drive  
Kihei, HI 96753  
808-242-0900

January 27, 2011

Dear Legislators:

Our Hawaii Healthy Start Program (HSP) focuses on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It provides services to low-income and vulnerable families with young children between the ages of 0-3 and pregnant women.

The program has been cut incrementally starting on 2008 by 17% and again earlier in 2009 by 30% incurring layoffs, decrease in families served, and finally by July 2009 the **Maui, Molokai, and Lanai** HS program funds were cut 100% along with others in the State. The lack of prevention threatens the increase in the Child Welfare System (CWS) for incidents of abuse and neglect. The families' needs for valuable information in the areas of child rearing, dental, medical and emotional support are enormous and they can't be ignored. We strive to make a difference in the lives of our community. Please join us by supporting our program.

At present, The 1998 "Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACE) study by Dr. Vicent J. Felitti shows a high correlation between ACE and drug use, teen pregnancy, depression, suicide, incarceration, and chronic disease in adults leading to premature death. Further studies show that for every dollar spent in prevention 4 to 7 are saved. One abused or neglected child, is one too many.

We ask you to please listen and respond to the needs of the children and families of Hawaii for compassion, vision, and for what is 'Pono'. Please advocate for the reinstatement of funds to include the outer and rural islands, which have not been supported. Thank you so much for your great attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Cyntia Pennington  
cpennington@mfss.org

January 27, 2010

The Honorable Senators and State Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: HB614

I am writing to urge the State Legislature to support Early Identification (EID) and Healthy Start (HS) Home Visitation services, especially on the neighbor islands of Maui, Lanai and Molokai. These services are critically important to our neighbor islands for finding at risk families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a Healthy Start in life.

Before funding cuts, EID and the Healthy Start program helped ensure that Maui, Molokai and Lanai children had a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future. Without state support, the existing services on the neighbor islands will not be able to continue running on dwindling non-profit agency emergency funds.

Maui, Molokai and Lanai are in dire need of funding support to expand and secure early childhood intervention and education programs through EID and Healthy Start. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Antoinette Rodrigues, MA  
35 Holomakani Drive  
Kula, HI 96790  
808-264-9392  
rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com

HB 614

S

January 27, 2011

To our Local Legislators,

I'm writing this letter in support of the Healthy Start Program and requesting that funding be available for Maui County which includes Molokai and Lanai. Despite the cuts in funding we continue to provide services to struggling families.

In the past years I've supported and witness so much success stories of young families going through raising their children and accomplishing their goals. With the support of the Healthy Start Program parents gain self esteem and learn to raise a healthy family and children and be active in our community. Parents teach their children right from wrong. Children learn to be respectable learners. Parents also learn the developmental milestone of their child with the support of Healthy Start Program.

Please help us by funding the Healthy Start Program in the Maui County so we can service families that are on our waitlist.

Mahalo,

Corinne Young PCE  
Maui Family Support Services  
Molokai Early Headstart-553-8114