



HILOPA'A LATE

Family to Family Health Information Center

Date: April 11, 2012

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Senator Josh Green, MD, Chair

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

Fr: Leolinda Parlin, State Coordinator for Family Voices of Hawai'i

Re: **SUPPORT – HCR150/HR 113 – DELARING THE MONTH OF APRIL OF EACH YEAR AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTHIN HAWAI'I**

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, I offer testimony in support of HCR150 AND HR 113 which delares each year the month of April to be Autism Awareness Month. As an organization, Family Voices is national grass roots organization of family of friends of child with special health care needs. In Hawai'i, we operate the federally funded Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center.

As highlighted in the resolution, Autism is an equal opportunity disability. It does not discriminate by socioeconomic status or ethnicity. The numbers of new children diagnosed are increasing each year. HCR150/HR133 provides the opportunity to continue to raise attention and awareness to this disorder. The continued attention and awareness in Autism in recent years has enabled significant research in Autism. This research has generated evidence based best practices in intervention and treatment.

I apologize for not providing testimony in person today. Thank you for your continued support of our children and families.