



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

April 2, 2012

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health
Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives Yamane and Morikawa and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HCR 177/HR 137 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HCR 177/HR 137**. The resolutions request that the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) assess the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the proposal in Senate Bill No. 2631 S.D. 2, Regular Session of 2012 to require insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders by accident and health or sickness insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations, and to analyze the cost of providing insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii, based on actual cost effects experienced in other states that require such coverage.

In 2008, the Legislature initiated the following:

1. Established the Autism Spectrum Disorders Benefits and Coverage Task Force pursuant to Act 221 to seek input on problems faced by parents of children with autism; seek input on what can be done to ensure proper health benefits and services including applied behavioral analysis techniques; review health insurance coverage plans; and develop a plan of services that health insurers should be asked to consider covering. The report dated December 2008 was

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Page 2
April 2, 2012

submitted by the Department of Health to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2009.

2. Requested the Legislative Auditor to conduct a study of the social and financial impacts of mandatory health insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Part of that study included a review of specific health service, disease, or provider that would be covered; extent of the coverage; target groups that would be covered; limits on utilization; and standards of care. At the time of the study, there were 11 states that enacted legislation to require health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders. The results of the study were submitted to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2009 (Report No. 09-09, July 2009).

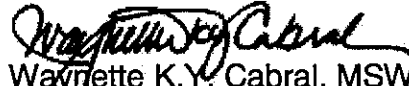
Currently, there are 29 states (58%) that require insurers to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorders and cost data available to study the effects of insurance premiums of providing treatment. Additionally, the number of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii has significantly increased.

The Council recommends that the study by LRB include a review of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Benefits and Coverage Task Force's and Legislative Auditor's reports. The results of LRB's study would provide valuable information to assist Hawaii in its provision of insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 177 and HR 137.

Sincerely,


Liz Ann Salvador
Chair


Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Testimony

HCR177

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Health

Monday, April 2, 2012, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on House Concurrent Resolution No. 177, which directs the Legislative Reference Bureau to:

- (1) Assess the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on the proposal in Senate Bill No. 2631, S.D. 2, requiring health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders; and
- (2) Analyze the cost of providing insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of this measure but offers the following comments and concerns:

It appears unnecessary at this time to study the impact of the PPACA on state-mandated insurance coverage for treatment for autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii. On its own, the PPACA does not mandate coverage for autism treatment specifically, and to date, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has not released guidance or regulations that mandate coverage specifically for autism treatments. Because the "essential health benefits" mandated by the PPACA for individual and small group insurance plans are benchmarked to insurance coverage already offered in a state, it remains that state's own decision whether to mandate coverage for autism treatment and whether those treatments will be part of that state's "essential health benefits."

To explain, the PPACA requires individual market and small-group market health plans, whether sold inside or outside of a health exchange, to cover ten broad categories of "essential health benefits," one of which is mental health, including behavioral health treatments. The Federal Act directs the Department of Health and Human Services to define the scope of "essential health benefits," and existing guidance from DHHS would allow each state to select its own benchmark plan that reflects the scope of services offered by a typical employer plan in that state. Thus, the extent to which specific behavioral health services, such as autism treatment, are covered will depend in large part on the state's selected benchmark plan and the levels of coverage for those treatments existing within that plan. This provision of the law was intended to offer states the flexibility to select a plan that best meets the needs of their citizens.

Accordingly, because the coverage for essential health benefits required by PPACA depends, in part, on the levels of coverage in each state's benchmark plan, it would appear that Hawaii's choice whether to mandate coverage for autism treatment in all insurance plans sold in the State will, in turn, affect the inclusion of autism treatment coverage in Hawaii's benchmark plan. In other words, if the State mandates coverage for autism treatment, then the coverage for autism treatment will be covered in the State's benchmark plan (because it is based on plans sold in the State), and individual and small group plans sold in Hawaii, either inside or outside of the health insurance exchange, will be required to cover autism treatment within the scope of the mental health services that are required to be covered by this State's benchmark plan.

We further note that requesting the Bureau to study of the cost of providing coverage for autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii based on the experiences in other states would provide little additional information to the Legislature. The Auditor, in her 2009 report, has estimated that the financial impacts of mandated autism coverage:

"[C]ould initially cost health insurers over \$100 million per year to reimburse policyholders.

Without inflation, payments for mandated services for the current population of children with an autism spectrum disorder could exceed \$1 billion up to the age of 21."

The Bureau would not have access to any definitive information that would contradict the Auditor's previous findings. The only agency that might conceivably have such information would be the Insurance Commissioner, particularly with regard to how much costs for mandated services for children with autism spectrum disorders might increase, due to the ability of parents to keep such children on their health insurance plan until the child reaches the age of twenty-six, as allowed under the PPACA.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony of
Phyllis Dendle
Director of Government Relations

Before:
House Committee on Health
The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

April 2, 2012
10:30 am
Conference Room 329

**HCR177/HR137 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO
CONDUCT A STUDY ON REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE
FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM
SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

Chair Yamane and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HCR177 and HR137 requesting the legislative reference bureau to conduct a study on requiring insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports these resolutions.

We appreciate the legislature's interest in reviewing additional information on autism treatment. The two areas in the resolution to be studied are the interaction with federal law and the analysis of cost based on the experience of other states. To this we would like to suggest you add a third request that catalogs the clinical information and research that is available on autism. We offer the following amendment to be inserted in HCR 177 on page 3 line 16:

(3) Catalog the recommended clinical guidelines made by medical societies and associations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the research completed on the effectiveness of treatment modalities including the parameters and outcomes of the studies, and the information available about the clinical effectiveness of treatments covered in states which currently have an insurance mandate.

Thank you for your consideration.



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

April 1, 2012

Via Email: HLTtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, Committee on Health
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420

Re: HCR177/HR137 – Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Conduct a Study on Requiring Insurance Coverage for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Hearing date & time: Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 10:30 a.m., Room 329

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee on Health:

I am Lorri Unumb, Vice President, State Government Affairs, of Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks was founded in February 2005 and has grown into the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Autism Speaks submits testimony in **strong support** of HCR177/HR137, which requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau study what impact the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will have on mandates proposed by pending legislation for health insurers to provide coverage for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and the cost of providing such coverage in Hawaii.

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by behavioral challenges. Autism spectrum disorders are diagnosed in **one in 88 children** in the United States, affecting four times as many boys as girls. The prevalence of autism increased 57 percent from 2002 to 2006. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called autism an urgent public health concern for which the cause and cure remain unknown. However, the U.S. Surgeon General has reported that treatment for autism can spare an individual from life-long dependency as a ward of the state. In the absence of health insurance coverage, families are often required to pay out-of-pocket for treatments that can cost upwards of \$50,000 per year. In the process, many risk their homes and the educations of their unaffected children – essentially mortgaging their entire futures. Worse yet, children born into families without means go untreated. Without treatment,

these individuals become a significant financial burden on the state. According to a Harvard School of Public Health study, the lifetime societal cost of autism is estimated to be \$3.2 million per person. This cost can be reduced dramatically or eliminated with appropriate intervention.

Autism Speaks has advocated for the enactment of insurance legislation at the state level across the nation. To date, **30 states** have adopted insurance coverage legislation: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. In the states where the laws are effective, individuals with autism are making remarkable progress, and the impact on premiums has been minimal. The average fiscal impact across five of the early-adopting states that have reported data is approximately 31 cents per month for each member of the plan as a result of the added autism benefit.

In Hawaii, a number of measures providing insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder were considered before the Legislature this session. While these bills have failed to move forward this session, we firmly believe in the vital importance of providing insurance to those Hawaii families who struggle with the everyday impacts of not having adequate access to treatment. We also believe that performing an objective analysis of the impact of the Affordable Care Act as well as the cost of providing such coverage in Hawaii based on actual cost data in other states will demonstrate that coverage should be provided.

We therefore respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of HCR177 and HR137.

Lorri Unumb, Esq., Vice President
State Government Affairs
Autism Speaks
803-582-9905

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 Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Committee on Health Testimony in Support of HCR 177 and HR 137

Monday, April 2, 2012, 10:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is in support of these Resolutions.

During this session, the Senate passed SB 2631, SD2, the purpose of which was to require health insurance plans to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorders. This was a very important bill and this coverage is very appropriate for insurance policies. The whole point of insurance is to spread risk and cost among an entire population, so that disproportionate, catastrophic expenses are not heaped upon specific individuals or groups.

With that in mind, we need to realize that autism is occurring among children in epidemic proportions. According to current statistics, **one out of 110 children (1 out of 85 boys) are born with autism**. That is a staggering, alarming figure, as is the cost to those families and to society to care for these individuals over the course of their lives. **It is estimated that the cost of caring for a single individual with autism for a lifetime is \$3 million**. Evidence suggests that techniques such as applied behavioral analysis have been effective in mitigating or reducing or eliminating the effects of autism if used at an early age. While the treatments may seem costly in the short run, hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, are saved over the course of a lifetime by the early utilization of treatments.

Further, while some services are supposed to be provided via the DOE under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, in reality, the DOE has done a very poor job

of either educating or providing needed services to children with autism. Therefore, other means of providing coverage and services need to be addressed.

Inasmuch as autism is unfortunately becoming common and the costs are so high, insurance coverage is appropriate as a mechanism to spread the risk and cost amongst all of us. We note that **approximately half the states in the country currently mandate some insurance coverage for autism.** Therefore, this would seem to be an approach to addressing this problem which has received broad support.

Since the House did not hear this proposal this session, we urge passage of these Resolutions so that the Legislative Reference Bureau can analyze the cost of this proposal based upon the experience in other states. We recognize that cost is certainly a concern and that was reflected in the Legislative Auditor's Report in 2009. However, testimony presented to the Senate this session was that the cost in other states that adopted the proposal were significantly lower than what may have been anticipated. Certainly, that would be good news and might well pave the way to adopt a similar proposal in Hawaii. For that reason, a good, thorough, objective analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau is a very valid, worthwhile proposal and we are pleased to support it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these measures.



HILOPA'A

Family to Family Health Information Center

Date: April 1, 2012

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

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

Re: **SUPPORT** – HCR177/HR137 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

On behalf of Family Voices of Hawai'i, I offer testimony in **support** of HCR177/HR137 – which seeks the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to conduct a study on requiring insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), 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 (F2FHIC) and serve as the coordinating body of the HRSA funded Ho'opa'a Autism State Implementation Grant. In addition, as part of the F2FHIC, we co-moderated the Legislative Task Force on ASD and insurance coverage.

Last week this legislative body adopted in final form a resolution declaring April of each year as Autism Awareness Month. During this same time period, the Center for Disease Control announced new statistics and cites the prevalence of ASD is 1:88. Here we are on the first working day of April requesting your support to conduct this study.

As it relates to the first objective of the request to the LRB, I ask that the request be further defined to include the following:

- a. In addition, but not limited to clarify the applicability of coverage of evidenced based treatments of ASD as part of the habilitation, mental health, and or behavioral health treatment benefit of the essential health benefits package;
- b. Clarify if the state essential benefits package is modeled "equal in scope of benefits under a typical employer plan", if that also requires the application of the plan "exclusions" found in that typical employer plan; and
- c. Clarify if the essential benefits package would also be restricted to the existing provider types used by the typical employer plan.

In addition, I humbly ask that a third request to the study be made to address the following:



(3) Conduct a gap analysis of the ASD related therapeutic and medical services provided by the Department of Education and Department of Health provided to program participants for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

While the legislative auditor's report of 2009 indicated that the Departments of Education and Health may offer these services, the study does not offer utilization data of these services (e.g., applied behavioral analysis, etc.) across the continuum. Nor does it address the unmet needs of those children and or adults who may not meet the eligibility criteria of these programs. It is the experience of the many families that we serve that the Department of Education's services available through special education which is designed to meet the child's need to access the regular education curriculum provided in our school system. It may not address the needs of the child in the other 16 hours day the child is not in school. Individuals with ASD have extreme difficulty in adapting to change and generalizing behavior. To assume that in all cases all children with ASD served by the DOE will be able to apply the educational supports implemented in school to the home environment is a mistake.

In addition, this request to widen the scope of the request to the LRB is done so to not lose time as we did in the legislative task force by deferring action pending implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). There is much work to be done to further understand the impact of the need of these services while we are awaiting the Supreme Court's decision.

Family Voices remains committed to being a partner in this discussion and is available to provide any additional information required to continue this dialogue. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR177/HR137.



COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF HAWAII
1177 Alakea Street • B-100 • Honolulu • HI • 96813
TEL: (808) 586-5363 • TOLL FREE: 1-800-437-8641 • FAX: (808) 586-5366

March 30, 2012

To: Senator Ryan Yamane, Chair
Senator Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

Re: HCR177/HR137 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS.

Dear Chairs Yamane & Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

The 17 Community Children's Councils (CCCs) of Hawaii **supports** this resolution calling for a legislative reference bureau (LRB).

Autism transcends culture and social economic status, impacting 1 in every 88 children according to the latest Center for Disease Control (CDC) report dated 3-29-12. Early detection is important so treatment can begin as soon as possible, which will afford the individual a chance to become a productive member of society as they age into adulthood. We hope this LRB can be carried out swiftly and utilize the data in other states where insurance for autism has been in effect for a few years such as South Carolina.

The CCCs are community-based bodies comprised of parents, professionals in both public and private agencies and other interested persons who are concerned with specialized services provided to Hawaii's students. Membership is diverse, voluntary and advisory in nature. The CCCs are in rural and urban communities organized around the Complexes in the DOE.

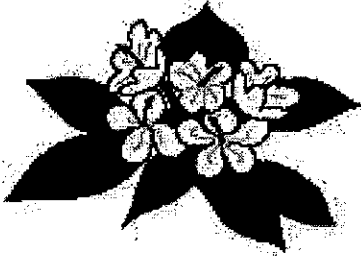
Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the Community Children's Council Office (CCCO) at 586-5363.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Tom Smith, Co-Chair

Jessica Wong-Sumida, Co-Chair

(Original signatures are on file with the CCCO)



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

April 2, 2012

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Pam Buchanan
Ms. Cassandra Bennett
Ms. Jyo Bridgewater
Ms. Sue Brown
Ms. Panela Buchanan
Dr. Robert Campbell, *liaison
to the Superintendent*
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Debra Farmer
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Mr. Henry Hashimoto
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Pina Lemusu
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Dr. Jeff Okamoto
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Melissa Rosen
Dr. Patricia Sheehy
Ms. Cari White

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HCR 177 / HR 137 - REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON
REQUIRING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDERS.

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members,

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State
Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
(IDEA), **supports** HCR 177 and HR 137 which ask the Legislative
Reference Bureau (LRB) to gather important information on 1) the
projected costs of providing insurance coverage for the diagnosis and
treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Hawaii, and 2) the
impact of the Affordable Care Act on proposed coverage outlined in
SB 2631, SD 2.

SEAC strongly supported SB 2631, SD 2 because of the abundance of
evidence that early diagnosis and treatment of ASD results not only in
improved outcomes for children with ASD, but also significant savings
in health care coverage and the need for additional services over the
lifetime of the individual.

Thank you for the opportunity to support passage of these resolutions.
We look forward to the findings of the LRB regarding this matter. If
you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 10:18 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: julesjgreen@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Julie Green
Organization: Individual
E-mail: julesjgreen@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

To: Ryan I. Yamane, Chair & Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair,
From: Julie Green - University of Hawaii- School of Social Work
Bill- HCR 177: Related to Health

The purpose of this bill is to assess the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the proposal in Senate Bill No. 6 2631, S.D. 2, Regular Session of 2012, to require insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders by accident and health or sickness insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations. This bill also petitions to analyze the cost of providing insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorders in Hawaii, based on actual cost effects experienced in other states that require such coverage.

I support this bill because children with autism deserve the opportunity to grow, develop and learn. These children, regardless of their diagnosis have the ability to overcome their obstacles with the right care, training and support.

I have conducted ABA therapy for 2 years, and currently provide respite care for military families who have children with autism. I have worked with other professionals in early childhood prevention to ensure that children take full advantage of their most crucial developmental years. These children are now thriving academically and socially as a direct result of multiple treatments and interventions. One child in particular, at 2 years old was non-verbal, had under developed motor skills, and made no eye contact. At age 3 he began ABA therapy and at age 4 had surgery on his tongue to allow him to speak properly. During this time he was able to see other medical professionals to treat gastrointestinal issues as well as modify his diet. He is now 5, and is academically well above his peers. He can communicate his needs calmly and effectively. He can run, jump and play as a typical 5-year-old boy. He is continuing ABA therapy and social group sessions to maintain his social progress as new experiences arise. These interventions would not have been affordable to this family without their military medical insurance.

I am personally committed and invested in these children's lives. Autism diagnosis is on the rise and we as a community have the opportunity to equip these children to become independent successful adults. If this bill is passed, many more children will have access to the care they need.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, Julie Green

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 8:51 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sch64@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Toshino Kaneko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sch64@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 8:50 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sch64@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Larry Kaneko
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sch64@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 8:47 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: peterinhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter Henriques
Organization: Individual
E-mail: peterinhawaii@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

As a parent of a child with ASD, I strongly support HCR 177/ HR 137. Thank you very much.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 8:42 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: sherrihenriques@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sherri Henriques
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sherrihenriques@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

I am a mother of an 8 year old boy on the autism spectrum and am strongly in support of HCR 177. Thank you.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 9:10 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: teesy@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR177 on 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for HLT 4/2/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR177

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Heyly Tee Sy
Organization: Individual
E-mail: teesy@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 4/1/2012

Comments:

Aloha Representative Yamane,

We are pleased to learn that the State of Hawaii is considering legislation to mandate insurance coverage for those on the autism spectrum. I urge that you support this bill.

Currently, 1 in 88 are diagnosed on the autism spectrum. As research has shown, these numbers continue to climb rapidly. Our 4 year old Jacob is diagnosed on the spectrum. Our out of pocket expense for him to receive therapy/services is \$10,000 a month. However, Jacob's 40 hour a week therapy has shown/proven dramatic difference! During a time of great economic concern, your action to offer families like us with option to reduce these costs are needed.

Your support is needed now! I hope I can count on you to keep this issue top of mind among the State Legislature. I look forward to seeing Hawaii added to the list of 29 states with autism insurance reform.

Mahalo,
Mr. & Mrs. Heyly Tee Sy