



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

### House Committee on Education

### S.B. 2828, HD1 RELATING TO HAWAII EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.  
Director of Health

March 19, 2012

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this administrative bill to  
2 revise the Hawai'i Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) membership to be in compliance  
3 with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA). In order to  
4 maintain the 20% membership proportions for parents and early intervention providers as required by  
5 Part C of IDEA, we request amendments to increase the number of members to 25 and quorum to 13.

6 **Fiscal Implications:** No state funds are used. Federal Part C funds are used for meeting costs including  
7 travel of Neighbor Island members to Oahu.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill revises the HEICC membership and duties to be consistent with  
9 Part C of IDEA (P.L. 108-446, Section 641) regarding the State interagency coordination council.

10 The DOH annually receives over \$2.1 million in federal funds which support early intervention  
11 services to infants and toddlers with or at biological risk for developmental delays. Compliance with  
12 current federal requirements for the council requires the specification of additional HEICC members,  
13 members not voting when there is the appearance of conflict of interest, prohibition of a member from  
14 the DOH serving as the HEICC chairperson, and an additional function of advising and assisting the  
15 State educational agency regarding the transition of toddlers with special needs and their families.

1           The broader HEICC membership will help to ensure the provision and coordination of early  
2 intervention services and ensure that Hawaii's Part C program meets the needs of eligible children and  
3 their families.

4           The DOH recognizes the importance of having HEICC members from both the House of  
5 Representatives and Senate, as specified in S.B. 2828 H.D. 1 which increased the number of legislative  
6 members from 1 to 2. The increase from the 22 members in S.B. 2828 to 23 members in S.B. 2828 H.D.  
7 1 has impacted the number of parents which must be at least 20% of the total membership; instead of 4  
8 parents, there must now be 5 parents. It has also impacted the number of early intervention providers  
9 which also must be at least 20% of the total membership; instead of 4 providers, there must now be 5  
10 providers. We therefore would like to request an amendment to increase the number of members to 25,  
11 in order to keep the membership proportions of at least 20% parents and at least 20% early intervention  
12 providers, as required by Part C of IDEA. We also request that the quorum be increased to 13, which  
13 corresponds to the majority of 25 members.

14           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.