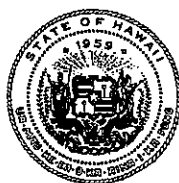


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

S.B. 2828, HD2 RELATING TO HAWAI'I EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

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

March 30, 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).

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

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

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

14 The broader HEICC membership will help to ensure the provision and coordination of early

1 intervention services and ensure that Hawaii's Part C program meets the needs of eligible children and
2 their families.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.