



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

House Committee on Finance

H.B. 908, H.D. 1, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

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

February 21, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this administrative proposal
2 which will establish essential prevention services for Hawaii's most vulnerable infants and toddlers.
3 **Fiscal Implications:** Appropriates \$3,000,000 in general funds to maintain and support the Hawaii
4 Home Visiting Program.
5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to sustain and support a statewide home
6 visiting program within the Department of Health to prevent child abuse and neglect, promote positive
7 child development and strengthen families by amending section Chapter 321, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
8 This measure also appropriates funds to maintain these efforts for a home visiting program. The Hawaii
9 Home Visiting Program will provide hospital-based screening of all births to identify and refer high-risk
10 families to evidence-based home visiting programs. Support for this program aligns the State to the
11 federal movement for prevention and support for families identified to be at risk. Home visiting services
12 address and prevent poor outcomes for prenatal, maternal and newborn health, child development
13 including child injuries and maltreatment, cognitive, language, social-emotional, and physical
14 development, parenting skills, school readiness, reductions in crime or domestic violence, improvements
15 in family economic self sufficiency, and improvements in coordination and referrals for other

1 community resources and supports. Support for home visiting is an economically prudent intervention
2 to address the public health interests and safety of at-risk children in the State. Recent research by the
3 RAND Corporation examined the benefits and costs of various early childhood interventions using a
4 meta analysis of numerous cost analyses of home visiting programs. When conservative assumptions
5 are used, home visiting programs are estimated to generate about \$6,000 in net benefits per child. Using
6 this cost/benefit formula, at 400 children in the current home visiting program and at \$6,000 per child,
7 there is an estimated \$2,400,000 in savings. The savings from reduced emergency department visits,
8 foster care assignments, hospitalizations and child protective services expenditures are substantial. The
9 establishment of home visiting through a statute amendment clearly demonstrates the State's
10 commitment to supporting and strengthening at-risk families and supports the State's position to receive
11 continued federal funding through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant. This
12 grant requires a Maintenance of Effort for grant funding. An appropriation of \$3,000,000 would meet
13 the State's obligation and ensure additional access to federal funding for the home visiting program.

14 The appropriation request in this measure is for the same \$3 million in the Governor's Executive
15 Biennium Budget; not in addition to that request.

16 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
H.B. 908 H.D. 1, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program
By Terry Lock, Director

House Committee on Finance
February 21, 2013
11:00 a.m., Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Terry Lock, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of House Bill 908 House Draft 1.

H.B. 908 H.D. 1 would establish, within the Department of Health, the Hawaii Home Visiting Program to administer statewide hospital-based screening and home visiting services to identify families of newborns at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect.

EOEL is charged with coordinating efforts on behalf of young children by creating partnerships and alignment of policies and programs to achieve improved outcomes in health, safety, and school readiness and success. Over the past year, EOEL has engaged partners across the state to define the desired outcomes for children and families, as well as the critical strategies to achieve those outcomes, which should be prioritized over the next three to five years. This work – the Hawaii Early Childhood Action Strategy – is described in *Taking Action for Hawaii's Children*, which can be found at earlylearning.hawaii.gov.

Families' access to home visitation services was a key recommendation in the strategies developed by over 100 participants across the state. Home visiting is a prevention strategy used by states and communities to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families at risk for adverse developmental, health, and safety concerns. Investments in home visiting programs have been shown to reduce costs associated with foster care placements, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, unintended pregnancies, and other more costly outcomes and interventions.

Research has demonstrated the critical role that prevention of child abuse and neglect plays in early school success. Children who have been neglected or physically abused tend to perform poorly in school, as evidenced by low grades, low standardized test scores, and frequent retention in a grade; the negative effects are even greater for neglected than for abused children (Chalk, Gibbons, & Scarupa, 2002). They tend to have lower grades, lower standardized test scores, and lower rates of grade promotion (Augostinos, 1987; Eckenrode, et al., 1991; Guterman, 2001; Wolfe & Mosk, 1983).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 19, 2013

House Committee on Finance
Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908, HD1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

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

My name is Jani Sheppard and I am the CEO of Maui Family Support Services, Inc. In November 2010, MFSS celebrated 30 years of serving children and families in our community. Maui Family Support Services currently 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 HB908, HD1 to restore Healthy Start statewide for hospital-based screening and assessment and intensive home visitation program under the Department of Health.

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

In August 2008, a 4 mil cut to DOH services resulted in \$1.9 mil cut in funding from Healthy Start. For Maui County Families this meant a cute 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, ¼ 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 served 13. These limited services were possible because 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 February 2012, this became a reality and funding was allocated for Healthy Start Early Identification and Home Visiting. MFSS now serves 60 families in the Healthy Start program and provides hospital based screening 7 days per week and most holidays. These families are those at

highest risk for child abuse and neglect. However, the early identification prenatally and just after birth is an evidenced –based approach to equipping parents with the tools, education, resources and support needed to provide safe and nurturing environments for their children.

We see firsthand the effects not having Healthy Start has had on the families in our community. Families in *Enhanced* Healthy Start must already be involved in the Child Welfare system to qualify for services...the *child has already been harmed*. The referrals for Enhanced Healthy Start almost increased by over 70% from the initial Healthy Start cuts to present as there were no services (except the MFSS 28 hour per week early identification team member and 10 hour per week home visitor and specialists in the small program described above) to identify and serve those families at high risk for child abuse and neglect. The higher profile cases like the toddler who was allegedly stomped to death by his parent in June 2012 horrify us, as they should. However, there are children every day, (actually every 4 minutes) who live through abuse and neglect that we have not identified early, or identified their parents as individuals who are at high risk; they have not harmed their child and can be helped with effective, evidence-based services by competent staff. We again have the opportunity to provide these critical and effective services to families at high risk because of substance abuse, homelessness, poverty, untreated mental health issues, domestic violence, and the myriad of family stressors that come with trying to parent children without the skills or resources needed to ensure their children are safe, healthy, and never experience intentional harm from those they most need to love and care for them.

We certainly understand funding is limited and difficult decisions need to be made. The cost savings for intervention vs. prevention is \$7 - \$1; HFA accredited and evidenced-based home visiting services are proven to be effective. Early identification, especially prenatally, and services to those most at risk, is critical.

Thank you for your time, kind attention, the work you do, and for supporting evidenced –based statewide early identification and home visitation services for Hawai`i's children and families.

Respectfully,

L. Jani Sheppard

Chief Executive Officer

Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

Maui, Moloka`i and Lana`i

808.242.0900

February 20, 2013

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Finance Committee
Representative Scott Nishimura, Vice Chair, House Finance Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: HB 908, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Dear Committee Chairs and Members,

I am Gail Breakey, Executive Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute testifying in support of HB 908, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Beginning in 1985, the Hawaii state legislature supported a home visiting program called Healthy Start, which was aimed primarily at averting child abuse and neglect and also supported the health and positive development of young children at risk. This program initiated a hospital based screening program, with capability to reach out to families of newborns at risk. This program provided support to at risk families of newborns across the state, with at least a 99% non-abuse rate for many years. In 2009, there was no confirmed abuse for over 99% of families served for at least 12 months, and most of these cases were categorized as threatened harm or maltreatment of a sibling of the infant rather than maltreatment of the target infant.

With the loss of nearly all home visiting services statewide during the downturn in 2009, two program sites remained- in Leeward Oahu and Hilo-Puna, communities which exhibited the highest rates of maltreatment. These programs have benefited from a competitively awarded quality improvement grant and are also undergoing accreditation from Healthy Families America, the national program modeled after Hawaii Healthy Start. There has been no confirmed abuse for 99.8% of children among the 505 families served in Leeward Oahu from 2009-2013.

To its' credit, the Department of Health has moved creatively to start to rebuild a network of home visiting services for newborns, reaching out to home visiting services like Early Head Start and Parents as Teachers, which have proven successful as models to enhance early learning and along with Healthy Families America are recognized as evidence based programs. Hospital based screening is also being reinstated on an incremental basis. A Healthy Start/HFA programs has been re-established on Maui along with a very small initiative on Kauai. Funds in the budget for 2013-14 are basically for maintenance of these efforts.

In regard to future commitment to this initiative, it is important to recognize that the problem of child abuse among young children has not gone away. Most serious abuse and death occur among our youngest keiki. **Children under age 1 are largest age group for Hawaii confirmed abuse cases; children under age five comprise half of CPS cases (DHS, 2011). While nationwide data show lower rates of maltreatment**

overall, the most recent national incidence study shows higher rates for young children living in high risk situations, and a review of hospitalizations for abuse shows a major increase of children under one hospitalized for abuse and neglect.

Child abuse and its consequences cost our state millions. The CDC estimates the lifetime costs for one abuse/neglect case at \$210,012. Using this estimate, a recent Star Advertiser article estimated that lifetime costs of the 1,800 children confirmed for maltreatment in 2008 were approximately \$378,021,600. (Karen Worthington, 2-2-12) These figures are realistic. A compendium studies on abuse and neglect published by the Maine office of trauma concludes that our mental health systems are filled with survivors of abuse and neglect. A physician at OCCC in Hawaii conducted a survey and found that most of the men had been abused sexually as children; colleagues at the Women's Corrections facility report similar information. The combined budgets for courts and corrections is around \$210 Million. These are in addition to the costs of child protective services and special education.

Major studies show links between early trauma and emotional/ mental health problems, such as substance abuse, school failure, crime as well as chronic health problems such as obesity, diabetes, heart and lung problems and smoking. **When we understand that 75 % of brain development is completed by age one, it is easier to understand how** abuse and neglect of infants and toddlers negatively impact developing brain architecture, creating long term post-traumatic stress which results in so many costly social and health problems.

While it is likely not feasible to completely restore the Healthy Start program to 2008 levels, it will be very important to restore state wide risk screening and sufficient intensive services designed to avert abuse and neglect for families at highest risk for maltreatment as a major priority. Preventing abuse and neglect among infants and toddlers should be a cornerstone of our early childhood system. Children who are well nurtured and experience healthy early emotional development will have the foundations for early learning and school readiness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Gail Breakey, Executive Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Testimony in Support of HB 908, HD1: Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

TO: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Representative Aaron Johanson, Vice Chair, Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Social Policy Director, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:00 a.m. Conference Room 308

Catholic Charities Hawaii strongly supports HB 908, which establishes the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, a program that works with families to prevent child abuse and neglect through partnerships between provider agencies and the Department of Health.

Catholic Charities Hawaii (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawaii for over 60 years. CCH has programs serving families, elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy for the most vulnerable of the people in Hawaii.

Hawaii has a long history of providing early identification (screening/assessment) and home visiting services for families with children from birth to three years of age and was on the cutting edge nationally for providing these services when funding cuts in 2008 essentially dismantled the early identification and home visiting services network. These services have been available since then to a very limited degree in only two geographic sites. The establishment of the Hawaii Home Visiting Network would provide the opportunity for the families of all children born in Hawaii to be screened for risk of child abuse and neglect and referred for appropriate home visiting services.

Raising a family with limited resources, personal histories of trauma and/or other life challenges can be very difficult for parents. It can also put them at-risk for mistreatment of their children. Children at this age are extremely vulnerable because they are completely dependent on their caregivers and not yet under the care of teachers and educators who can observe signs of child abuse or neglect in their students. Preventing abuse before it happens is much more effective in stopping the cycle of abuse and dysfunction that will be perpetuated without intervention. Supporting parents to be nurturing and appropriate through this program will save the state the high cost of intervening in an abusive family. It will also help produce keiki who are happier, healthier, and facing more positive outcomes in development and learning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808)527-4810 or trisha.kajimura@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if you have any questions.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808)527-4810 • trisha.kajimura@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Phone 808.681.3500
Fax 808.681.5280
Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org
www.childandfamilyservice.org



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Alliance for Children & Families
Kauai United Way
Maui United Way
Hawaii Island United Way

February 21, 2013

Testimony on HB 908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 21, 2013, 11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO, Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson 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 strong support of HB 908.

Before 2009, Hawaii was a leader in child abuse prevention when it still had a statewide Healthy Start Home Visiting program that screened parents of all newborns for risk of child abuse and referred those at high and moderate risk to the voluntary home visiting program. Unfortunately in 2009, this statewide program was decimated when funding was reduced from almost \$10 million in General Funds to \$1.5 million in TANF funds through a Memorandum of Agreement between DHS and DOH. DOH then identified census tracts with the highest rates of child abuse to preserve one Oahu program and one Neighbor Island program. Ewa/Waipahu was selected on Oahu and Child & Family Service was able to keep one small Healthy Start program going as a result, since we were already serving Leeward Oahu. The YWCA of East Hawaii was the provider in Puna/Hilo that was able to preserve a small program as well.

In the current biennium that began July 1, 2011, Healthy Start has been funded with Tobacco Settlement Funds at \$3 million per year for FY '12 and FY '13. Mahalo to the Governor and the Director of Health for finding a way to prevent the total elimination of this critically essential child abuse prevention program through the use of these Special Funds that actually had not been released by the previous administration and had not lapsed.

This bill establishes in statute the Hawaii Home Visiting Network which includes hospital-based screening using a standardized screening tool for parents of newborns to assess for risk of child abuse and refers families at high risk of child abuse to the Healthy Start Home Visitation program. The Department of Health is now also eligible for Federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) Home Visitation funds and these can only be used for evidence-based models. (Healthy Start is in the process of being accredited under Healthy Families America which is recognized by the Federal government as an evidence-based model.)

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

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 HB 908.

I ask for your support of this bill to preserve home visitation programs to prevent child abuse for the highest risk families. The importance of a program like Healthy Start (Healthy Families America) is that we intervene before there is ever a report of child abuse to Child Welfare Services. For numerous years when Healthy Start was a robust statewide program, over 99% of families that stayed 12 months or longer in the program had no report of child abuse. We believe this speaks to the effectiveness of home visitation services for high risk families. We can prevent child abuse, but we must protect these services from being totally eliminated as we were close to experiencing back in 2011.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

With warm Aloha,

Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO, Child & Family Service



Aloha United Way

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

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
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Kauai United Way
Maui United Way
Hawaii Island United Way



Aloha United Way

Testimony on HB908 HD1 (SB1139 SD1) RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

House Committee on Finance

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto, Committee Members Ty J. K. Cullen, Mark J. Hashem, Kaniela Ing, Jo Jordan, Bertrand Kobayashi, Nicole E. Lowen, Dee Morikawa, Richard H. K. Onishi, Gregg Takayama, James Kunane Tokioka, Justin H. Woodson, Kyle T. Yamashita, Beth Fukumoto and Gene Ward

February 21, 2013 11:00am

Conference Room 308

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony submitted by: Staff member

Child & Family Service

Aloha e Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto and Committee members,

I am Jodi Aiu, Program Administrator for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am testifying **in strong support of SB1139 SD1** (HB908) specifically the verbiage that relates to home visiting in effort to reduce child abuse.

Hawai'i has had a proud history as a leader in child abuse prevention. Previously, Hawai'i had a statewide Healthy Start Home Visiting program. The 2009 reduction in funding from nearly \$10 million to \$1.5 million reduced servicing areas to Leeward Oahu and East Hawai'i.

This bill establishes in statute the Hawai'i Home Visiting Network which includes hospital-based screening using a standardized screening tool for parents of newborns to assess for risk of child abuse and refers families at high risk of child abuse to the Healthy Start Home Visitation program. Healthy Start is in the process of being accredited under Healthy Families America which is recognized by the Federal government as an evidence-based model.

The importance of Healthy Start is prevention. Hawai'i Healthy Start's statewide history boasts over 99% of at risk families enrolled a year or more in the program had no report of child abuse. This bill supports a proactive state model to be proud of.

Your dedication is profound, your task is daunting and your thoughtful consideration is greatly appreciated. Mahalo.

A hui hou,
Jodi K. Aiu

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

Testimony on HB908 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

House Committee on Finance

Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto, Committee Members Ty J. K. Cullen, Mark J. Hashem, Kaniela Ing, Jo Jordan, Bertrand Kobayashi, Nicole E. Lowen, Dee Morikawa, Richard H. K. Onishi, Gregg Takayama, James Kunane Tokioka, Justin H. Woodson, Kyle T. Yamashita, Beth Fukumoto and Gene Ward

February 21, 2013 11:00am

Conference Room 308

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony submitted by: Joey McKeague, MSW

Aloha, Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto and Committee members,,

I am writing today in support of HB908, HD1 (SB1139 SD1). I have a strong belief that our state must do all that is possible to ensure the safety and security of our children by reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

In Hawaii, home visitation services, such as Healthy Start has been a prevention mechanism to reducing such abuse and neglect. In 2009, Healthy Start was significantly reduced in funding, so much so that we almost lost our home visiting programs altogether. Hundreds of families who were in need of home visiting services were left with little to no support at all. It is with a bill such as HB908, HD1 (SB1139 SD1) that we can avoid the elimination of such needed services in our state by ensuring that the highest risk families are identified and provided home visitation services through the Hawaii Home Visitation Network.

Please know that this bill is not only important to the families of highest risk, but also to the state as a whole. As a state we benefit from utilizing evidence-based programs, such as Healthy Start to reduce risk factors that ultimately will cost us more money in its absence in future years. It is a bill that makes sense both socially as well as financially.

HB908, HD1 (SB1139 SD1) will ensure that home visitation services will be protected from total elimination in future years, thus ensuring families with the highest risk will continue to receive services. I thank you for your leadership in authoring this important bill.

Mahalo,

Joey McKeague, MSW

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

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you about the importance of home visiting and early childhood programs in our community. As a mother and social worker in our community, I ask that you support the bill for the Hawaii Home Visiting program to increase funding for high home visiting programs in our community.

Research tells us that high-risk families who participate in high quality family strengthening programs have better coping skills, healthier relationships, more community resources, and most importantly less incidents of child abuse and neglect. Children whose families are enrolled home visiting programs are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to become involved in crime, and more likely to become positive, productive citizens as adults.

Working in the field I have seen many families succeed and grow through our services. I have watched families learning together. I have seen them shift their value systems and become more positive and healthy members of society. I have seen children thrive in a nurturing environment from skills we supported these families with.

The birth-to-five years are the most important of a child's development. Economists, business leaders, and researchers agree that child abuse and neglect prevention services are among the smartest public investments we can make.

Please vote in support of support the bill for the Hawaii Home Visiting programs so that all the families in our community will have the tools they need to become healthier, happier, stronger families.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! Thank you for your hard work.

Sara Valdez
1130 Hoomau Place
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Svaldez808@hotmail.com

February 19, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908, HD1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am writing on behalf of newborns and young children, to urge the State Legislature to support the bill regarding the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are significantly beneficial to families while providing our young with a safe, healthy, bright future.

As a concerned citizen, aunty, and teacher, I have seen various effective forms of supportive, preventative services and from such, a successful impact through utilization of early intervention services. When hardworking families, young/teen parents struggle to meet ends, it is often challenging to be both the provider and the parent (sometimes student too), taking on many responsibilities. Though parents are the first teachers of young children, their development and optimal growth may be neglected as a result of personal burdens or financial limitations within the family. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are strong advocates for our most vulnerable population of young children, who are limited in affirming their own stand.

Home Visiting programs offer vital support in understanding child development and age appropriate expectations. They empower parents and children by fostering parenting skills and utilizing community resources, which support healthy family functioning. They also provide preparation for success in school readiness, along with many other means of support including, but not limited to, educational resources, transportation, community referrals, etc.

Aside from the financial benefit of reducing costly outcomes (unintended pregnancies, emergency room visits, foster care, etc.), it is far more imperative that we provide early intervention services in our community, to ensure that children's rights to a healthy, safe life are defended and advocated for. Again, I strongly urge continued investment for child maltreatment prevention services; bearing in mind the children of our communities, our own children, and that once too, we were children.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration,

Esther Byun

493 Pio Pl. #304

Wailuku, HI 96793

February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance
Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling
Johanson
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu , HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374)- Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program.

Hearing: Feb. 21,2013 11:00 am

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Committee on Finance:

I am writing on behalf of newborns and young children, to urge the State Legislature to support the bill regarding the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are significantly beneficial to families while providing our young with a safe, healthy bright future.

As a **concerned citizen, mother, aunt and grandmother**, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are the eyes and ears for our most vulnerable population of newborns, infants and toddlers who are limited in advocating for their own well-being. Home Visiting programs provide parents crucial support in:

- Understanding child development from age 0-3 and the importance of age appropriate expectations
- Attending scheduled preventative well baby checkups and immunizations to protect your child from these childhood diseases such as whooping cough and others such as influenza.
- Conducting periodic screenings to catch any delays in physical and social-emotional development for early therapeutic interventions
- Positive parenting skills to help parents build their child's self esteem and prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Available community resources for healthy family functioning
- Success in school readiness goals for their children.

Home Visiting Programs along with Early Identification help ensure that Hawaii's children have a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment and neglect, thus reducing expensive

interventions for the state in the future. Please support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are critically important for finding at risk families and helping to have a Healthy Start in Life.

I have a personal experience of seeing program such as these in action, when my young nephew was having trouble with his speech at the age of 2, because his parents were such a young couple, they didn't know what to do or who to turn to. By referrals into Homevisiting programs in the community, my nephew and his parents got help with speech therapy, they also qualified for a program that helped the parents in family functioning and prevention of child abuse to help them become better parents. When developmental screens was done on my nephew, by his homevisitor, he was found to have other delays that were identified and later was able to be referred into Head Start Preschool. So without this homevisiting program. These young parents would not have known that their child had delays. This child would have not gone into preschool and, therefore it would have not been caught early and it would have been more costly and a hardship trying to find out later in life. Today my nephew is in the second grade he is doing well in school and his speech has improved a lot thanks to his homevisiting programs that helped him and his family at a very young age and for helping him be able to get school ready.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Leonora Etrata

P. O. Box 630002 , Lanai City , HI . 96763

nmbe81@yahoo.com

LORENN WALKER, J.D., M.P.H.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Honorable Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Other Honorable Committee Members

Thursday, February 21, 2013
11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 908 – RELTING TO THE HAWAI'I HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Please vote yes to pass this measure to provide home visitors for at risk babies and families in our community, which can help keep people healthy and safe, preventing immeasurable and unsustainable social and economic problems.

The program can help prevent social and economical costs by keeping children safe by helping their parents provide healthy homes.

My civil litigation work as a former deputy attorney general in the 1990s included defending the department of public safety (PSD). In preparation for depositions and trials I read countless files of imprisoned people who were witnesses. In reading the files, I was stunned that a large percent of the incarcerated people were formerly foster children. Also around this time, Kim Thorburn, MD, who was PSD medial director at the time, discussed a survey she did of incarcerated men finding that well over 80% of them reported being sexually abused as children. It is well known now too that most imprisoned women were sexually abused.

As a health educator and restorative lawyer today helping people deal with the effects of crime and criminal behavior, everyday I see the tragedy of how a lack of resources, substance abuse, crime, and prison harms children and families for generations, e.g., in a prison program we are currently providing, two incarcerated women out of a total of about 50, have families that we worked with previously in a family court program only a few years ago.

We spend vast amounts punishing people for bad decisions concerning substance abuse, which rarely improves behavior,¹ or helps people heal, and instead often works to destroy families and put children at further risk. My experiences as a guardian ad litem, and as a lawyer in child abuse and neglect cases after I left the AGs, also supports my belief in supporting prevention measures like the home visitor program.

Finally, as a former at-risk teen parent and the mother of a baby girl when I was 18, who was helped by a home visitor as this bill envisions, I can attest to the program's value. Despite what I lacked, including education as a 15 year old high school drop out who was briefly incarcerated at age 16, I became a Montessori teacher, and by age 31 was a lawyer, thanks in part to the help our home visitor provided us, which I remain deeply grateful for today.

Please support this program to help at risk families find meaningful lives with the support of home visitors. It is a program that will easily benefit our community in the long run. For more details about my background and work including over 40 published papers and two books see www.lorennwalker.com.

Thank you for your time and efforts serving the public.

¹ (see: National Institute of Justice 12-19-12 presentation on first circuit court's HOPE program and ramifications of our current justice system failure to decrease recidivism with prolonged incarceration) <http://nij.gov/multimedia/presenter/presenter-kleiman-hawken/data/resources/presenter-kleiman-hawken-transcript.htm>

February 20, 2013

Ave Diaz
Home Visiting Supervisor & Disabilities Specialist
Early Head Start Program, Maui Family Support Services

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

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol
Committee on Finance
Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke,
Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto,
Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

HB 908, HD1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program -Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

RE: Strong support for Home Visiting and Early Identification services as identified in the Bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program.

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are critically important for finding at risk families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a healthy start in life.

As a concerned citizen, mother and social worker, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are the eyes and ears for our most vulnerable population of newborns, infants and toddlers who are limited in advocating for their own well-being. Home Visiting programs provide parents crucial support in:

- Understanding child development and the importance of age appropriate expectations
- Attending scheduled preventative well baby checkups and immunizations
- Conducting periodic screenings to catch any delays in physical and social-emotional development for early therapeutic interventions
- Positive parenting skills
- Available community resources for healthy family functioning
- Success in school readiness goals for their children.

Home Visiting Programs along with Early Identification help ensure that Hawaii's children have a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment and neglect, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future.

Sincerely,

Ave Diaz
P.O. Box 791813
Paia, HI 96779

February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Committee on Finance:

I am writing on behalf of newborns and young children, to urge the State Legislature to support the bill regarding the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are significantly beneficial to families while providing our young with a safe, healthy, bright future.

As a concerned citizen and family support services worker, I have seen various effective forms of supportive, preventative services and from such, a successful impact through utilization of early intervention services. When hardworking families, young/teen parents struggle to meet ends, it is often challenging to be both the provider and the parent (sometimes student too), taking on many responsibilities. Though parents are the first teachers of young children, their development and optimal growth may be neglected as a result of personal burdens or financial limitations within the family. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are strong advocates for our most vulnerable population of young children, who are limited in affirming their own stand.

Home Visiting programs offer vital support in understanding child development and age appropriate expectations. They empower parents and children by fostering parenting skills and utilizing community resources, which support healthy family functioning. They also provide preparation for success in school readiness, along with many other means of support including, but not limited to, educational resources, transportation, community referrals, etc. Parents are encouraged to advocate for their children as they go through the school system and continue to help their children strive for excellence. Through home visiting services parents gain confidence in their child's development as their child grows.

Aside from the financial benefit of reducing costly outcomes (unintended pregnancies, emergency room visits, foster care, etc.), it is far more imperative that we provide early intervention services in our community, to ensure that children's rights to a healthy, safe life are defended and advocated for. Again, I strongly urge continued investment for child maltreatment prevention services; bearing in mind the children of our communities, our own children, and that once too, we were children.

Sincerely,

Kuipo Gonsalves
18 Kahoea Pl.
Kula, HI 96790

February 19, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am pleading to the state Legislature to support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are highly important in helping at risk families and their newborns, infants and toddlers.

As a *Parent & Child Educator*, I have personally seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff provides parents crucial support in:

- Learning and Understanding child development and the importance of age appropriate expectations
- Prenatal Education
- Attending scheduled preventative well baby checkups and immunizations
- Transportation to scheduled medical appointments
- Conducting screenings to catch any delays in physical and social-emotional development for early therapeutic interventions
- Weekly home visits to families
- Positive parenting skills
- Community Resources for healthy family functioning
- Success in School Readiness goals for their children
- Encouraging parents to reach their goals
- Socializations twice a month

Home Visiting Programs along with Early Identification help ensure that Hawaii's children have a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment and neglect, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future.

Sincerely,

Arlene Tendo

2725 Iolani St.

Pukalani, HI 96768

February 20, 2013

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

Dear House and Senate Members:

RE: HB 908, HD1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, Hearing: February 21, 2013
11:00AM

I am writing on behalf of newborns and young children, to urge the State Legislature to support the bill regarding the Hawaii Home Visiting program. 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.

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 and other home visiting programs like Early Head 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 Home Visiting programs like Healthy Start and Early Head 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.

Sincerely,

Daphne Ladia
Wailuku, Maui

175 Ehilani Street
Makawao, HI 96768
February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Honorable House of Representatives:

I am testifying in support of HB 908. Please fund this important HB. This program is important to connect families with community resources after identifying health needs. It is timely to provide screening and home visiting for families of newborns who are at risk for poor health. It is timely to encourage families to apply for medical insurance and be receptive to immunizations and preventive health care. Families who are not yet acclimated to the American and island way of life need the reassurance of a friendly home visitor.

Barbara A Tanner, MS, APRN
Bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com

February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: HB908, HD1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I support SB1095, which, upon amending Article X, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, establishes a statewide early childhood education program geared towards establishing a solid foundation for children's future educational and career success. SB1095 is important to me because a statewide early childhood education program would not only prepare children for school, but it would also foster exceptional physical and emotional development. These factors, altogether, are key components in producing healthy, capable, and contributing adults.

Many studies have proven that high-quality early childhood education programs have both short-term and long-term benefits for children, individuals, and society as a whole. SB1093 would provide parents with more access to these essential programs and also has the potential to alleviate financial burdens associated with early childhood education costs.

It is important to secure a solid foundation for our children in order to ensure a more successful, healthy, and promising future for us all.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1095.

Sincerely,

Malia K. Hosino
597 Kaumualii Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Representative Sylvia Luke; Vice Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto; Vice Chair, Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are very important for finding at risk families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a healthy start in life.

As a ***concerned citizen, mother and social worker***, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are the eyes and ears for our most vulnerable population of newborns, infants and toddlers who are unable to advocate for their own well-being. Home Visiting programs provide parents crucial support in:

- Understanding child development and the importance of age appropriate expectations
- Attending scheduled preventative well baby checkups and immunizations
- Conducting periodic screenings to catch any delays in physical and social-emotional development for early therapeutic interventions
- Positive parenting skills
- Available community resources for healthy family functioning
- Success in school readiness goals for their children.

Home Visiting Programs along with Early Identification help ensure that Hawaii's children have a chance to be protected them from possible maltreatment and neglect, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future.

Sincerely,

Cindy Jakubczak

cindy@mfss.org

February 5, 2013

House Committee on Health and House Committee on Human Services
Health Chair, Representative Della Au Belatti; Health Vice Chair, Dee Morikawa; Human Services Chair,
Representative Mele Carroll; Human Services Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB908 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 6, 2013

Dear House and Senate Members:

Aloha my name is Kalani Battad and I support HB908. I come from a home where my Dad was not present, I never knew my dad. My mom is on Batu and growing up in the public schools systems with some mental challenges was not easy for me and many times I felt like terrible/junk. As a man my I could see my family heading into the same cycle of drugs and abuse that I was a had been through. I began using ICE and when my wife got pregnant I could see that my family headed for disaster and the same ole same ole that I was raised in, abuse, drugs, and one harsh life. Fortunately some loving professional folks from Maui Family Support Services Home visit program got involved in our life. They come once a week to help us with all kine stuff from how to take care of JR Boy, feeding, development, child safety, how for bath um whatever we need. We got to the MFSS for classes and social stuff so my family can learn things to help us. Without this program and these people I do not know where I would be or how my family would turn out. This home visit program has helped me and my family more than I can say and if you don't vote to keep this program you going hurt families and you going hurt Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Kalani Battad
380 Lono Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

February 5, 2013

House Committee on Health and House Committee on Human Services
Health Chair, Representative Della Au Belatti; Health Vice Chair, Dee Morikawa; Human Services Chair,
Representative Mele Carroll; Human Services Vice Chair Bertrand Kobayashi
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB908 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 6, 2013

Dear House and Senate Members:

Aloha Everyone My Name is Josie Battad and I support HB 908. I cannot begin to tell you what the home visiting program means to me and my family. Growing up in Waipahu I was surrounded by teen single moms who didn't have a clue about raising kids. They were still kids themselves. The home visiting program has helped me for the past 2 years and I have learned so, so, much. My first child was taken away by CPS and I knew I needed to make a change but I never knew what for do. But fortunately we got hooked up with the Maui Family Support Services Home visits and today I can honestly say that my two other boys are not going to get taken away because I know what to do and how to act as a better Mom because of the things that they have taught me. From feeding to what to expect when we take JR Boy to the doctor, to how to hold um and change um you name it these aunties know how to help and they can teach not only me but some of these young girls who no more one supportive family or husband around. Straight up Maui Family Support Home Visits is da bomb, they da bomb if they can help me, my husband, my kids they can help anybody. My husband he meets with Uncle Al from the Fatherhood team and he when change, he when change. He is a better Dad to my kids and a better husband to me. I am thankful for this program and if you folks take this program away then you going hurt families like ours and that is wrong. So please, please don't mess this up by taking this program away. Mahalo

Sincerely,
Josie Battad
380 Lono Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK
GOD FOR THIS PROGRAM, STAFFS, HOME-VISITORS AND
THEIR SUPERVISORS, AND EVERYBODY. I DON'T ^{KNOW} HOW CAN
I EXPRESS HOW THANKFUL I AM FOR THIS PROGRAM
I AM WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW

BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS. I APPRECIATED EVERYTHING
THIS PROGRAM HAS DONE FOR ME ~~ALP MY BABY~~ SINCE MY BABY
WAS BORN UNTIL NOW. I TRULY THANK YOU
GUYS BECAUSE MY BABY HAS GROWN SMART.
~~BECAUSE~~ IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR GUIDANCES
AND SUPPORTS, MY BABY WOULDN'T BE THIS
SMART AND HEALTHY. THERE ARE SO MANY
THINGS I COULD WRITE DOWN, BUT TO MAKE
IT SHORT, I LIKE TO SAY THAT APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PROGRAM. SOMETIME,
I ~~MIGHT~~ WOULD FORGET ABOUT APPOINTMENT
BUT GOOD THING, I HAVE THE HOM-VISITORS TO
REMINDE ME. ~~I~~ THEY ARE HELPFUL IN MANY
WAYS. THANK YOU SO MUCH Maui Family
SUPPORT SERVICES!

YOU GUYS ARE AWESOME AND VERY
WELCOMING PEOPLE..

Away JETTON
02/05/13

F.H.C - HB

February 21, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Committee on Finance:

I am writing on behalf of newborns and young children, to urge the State Legislature to support the bill regarding the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are significantly beneficial to families while providing our young with a safe, healthy, bright future.

As a concerned citizen, aunty, and mother, I have seen various effective forms of supportive, preventative services and from such, a successful impact through utilization of early intervention services. When hardworking families, young/teen parents struggle to meet ends, it is often challenging to be both the provider and the parent (sometimes student too), taking on many responsibilities. Though parents are the first teachers of young children, their development and optimal growth may be neglected as a result of personal burdens or financial limitations within the family. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are strong advocates for our most vulnerable population of young children, who are limited in affirming their own stand.

Home Visiting programs offer vital support in understanding child development and age appropriate expectations. They empower parents and children by fostering parenting skills and utilizing community resources, which support healthy family functioning. They also provide preparation for success in school readiness, along with many other means of support including, but not limited to, educational resources, transportation, community referrals, etc.

Aside from the financial benefit of reducing costly outcomes (unintended pregnancies, emergency room visits, foster care, etc.), it is far more imperative that we provide early intervention services in our community, to ensure that children's rights to a healthy, safe life are defended and advocated for. Again, I strongly urge continued investment for child maltreatment prevention services.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration,

Gina Santos

493 Pio Dr. #413

Wailuku, HI 96793

February 20, 2013

Senate Committee on Finance

**Chair, Representative Sylvia Luke; Vice Chair, Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto; Vice Chair,
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson**

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

**Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting
Program**

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. These services are critically important for finding at risk families and helping to provide their newborns, infants and toddlers a healthy start in life.

As a ***concerned citizen and social worker***, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are the eyes and ears for our most vulnerable population of newborns, infants and toddlers who are limited in advocating for their own well-being. Home Visiting programs provide parents crucial support in:

- Understanding child development and the importance of age appropriate expectations
- Attending scheduled preventative well baby checkups and immunizations
- Conducting periodic screenings to catch any delays in physical and social-emotional development for early therapeutic interventions
- Positive parenting skills
- Available community resources for healthy family functioning
- Success in school readiness goals for their children.

Home Visiting Programs along with Early Identification help ensure that Hawaii's children have a safety net to protect them from possible maltreatment and neglect, thus reducing expensive interventions for the state in the future.

Sincerely,

Brian Havins
P.O. Box 880836
Pukalani, HI 96788

February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program
Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Committee on Finance:

I support HB 908, and want to add my name to those who also support this bill.

I was an Early Identification worker earlier this year, and I cannot stress enough about the need on our island for early intervention. It truly opened my eyes to see the stress that is faced by our young families, and the breakdown of traditional support systems.

Please support HB 908, by whatever means possible, and help our newest members of society to overcome obstacles and achieve the best life possible through early intervention.

Sincerely,

Eileen Kusakabe

Eileen Kusakabe

240A Maha Road

Makawao, HI 96768

572-1181

jeboe@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

I am sure you are all aware of the facts pertaining to HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program, as you have read them many times over. I will not reiterate the numbers again. What I do want to convey to you is behind each fact and number supporting this bill, is a face of a child and the voice of each family member that have received Home Visiting Services. Each child's face and each family's voice represent the future of our State...the children and families that will showcase Hawaii to their neighbors, to the nation and to the world, in the future years to come.

The benefits of Home Visiting becomes apparent just three years after birth when a child is ready to enter school. You, who are parents, know that three years go by pretty fast. Children become eager to participate in learning because their parents become eager for their success! Within another short spurt of growth and development, a child stands on the precipice of becoming a citizen of its community. How a child chooses to participate in his or her community becomes the most crucial selection for us. Through participation in Home Visiting Programs, parents are given the opportunity to promote their child's empathy for neighbors and promote self pride as result of accomplishments whereby fostering self worth and good decision making skills.

Whether a child chooses to impact their community through the education system, through the State's work force or chooses to drain their community's resources through the juvenile and adult criminal justice system, greatly influences the State of Hawaii's economic sustainability. How can our State pronounce a child's formative years are too long of a term to reap the economic benefits of this program?

The Home Visiting program is in the dream building business. It helps parents visualize the opportunities that are there for their children. It supports the "I can do this" self talk. And as parents dream...so do their children... and we all know that dreams are what futures are made of.

Please support our future.

Glenna Okamura, M.S.W.

480 Kenolio Rd

Kihei, Maui, Hawaii 96753

175 Ehilani Street
Makawao, HI 96768
February 20, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of **HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program**

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Honorable House of Representatives:

I am testifying in support of HB 908. Please fund this important HB. This program is important to connect families with community resources after identifying health needs. It is timely to provide screening and home visiting for families of newborns who are at risk for poor health. It is timely to encourage families to apply for medical insurance and be receptive to immunizations and preventive health care. Families who are not yet acclimated to the American and island way of life need the reassurance of a friendly home visitor.

Barbara A Tanner, MS, APRN
Bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com

February 20, 2013

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, Finance Committee
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice-Chair, Finance Committee
Hawaii State Legislature, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 908 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Dear Representatives Committee,

I am Carol Plummer, Associate Professor at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work and Research Affiliate with the Consuelo Foundation. My research specialization is in child abuse and neglect and its prevention. I am testifying in support of HB 908.

My work and area of expertise over the past 35 years has been in child abuse and neglect. As someone who has seen the devastation in the lives of children, both short term and long term, in treating hundreds of children and their parents, I urge you to consider the importance of this Bill. Home visiting with families at risk for abuse in the earliest years has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to promote bonding, improve health, and most of all prevent incidences of abuse. After my many years of clinical work, program development, and research, I am convinced that prevention must receive priority consideration in order to alleviate future problems and substantial costs to both youth and society.

Most recently I conducted a study entitled "And How are the Children", which involved meeting with 8 Hawaiian communities on all islands, involving 18 focus groups comprised of service providers or kupuna. A total of 181 individuals participated. First of all, every group highlighted the importance of addressing child abuse and family dysfunctions that impact children. Even more striking was the fact that Healthy Start was singled out as something that was of great help and, when defunded, had dire consequences in our communities. As I noted in my report, "Service providers were frustrated that oftentimes even politicians did not realize the impact of cutting those important family prevention efforts."

I hope that you will support home visiting efforts which are specifically aimed at working with families of children who are at significant risk of abuse and neglect in order to reduce this problem in our communities. I urge you to prioritize prevention programs which strengthen families rather than waiting to pick up the broken pieces, something the literature and research shows can be effective.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this matter. I am at your service if I can ever provide you with relevant information.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Plummer, MSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Research Affiliate, Consuelo Foundation

February 19, 2013

Committee on Finance

Chair, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair, Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson

Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of **HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374) – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program**

Hearing: February 21, 2013 11:00AM

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Committee on Finance:

As a parent and grandparent, I strongly urge you to support HB 908 HD 1 (HSCR374). It is crucial that parents in need be able to receive services that they may require in order to be the best possible parent in raising their child. Having the ability to receive information relating to early intervention services and information regarding available community resources at the time of their child's birth allows parents to be offered, based on their need/s to seek services that they may require.

By seeking a home visiting program such as Healthy Start, parents are allowed the opportunity to have a home visitor that can provide information and activities to them to promote a positive and nurturing environment, and a loving relationship with their child. Parents can receive information about healthy child development and educational information in raising their child. And with the help of the home visitor, parents can explore the stages of child development and ways to encourage their child's development and progress.

Parents can receive important community resources that will allow them the ability in obtaining other services as needed. Early intervention programs are needed in giving parents and children all necessary resources to have a happy and healthy life.

Please consider supporting the above Bill.

Sincerely,

Robin M. Dickson
11 Omaopio Road
Kula, Hawaii 96790
808-878-6062