



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK
DIRECTOR

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

House Committee on Health
House Committee on Human Services
February 6, 2013
10:05 a.m., Room 329

Chair Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Morikawa, Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and Members of the Committees:

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

H.B. 908 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).

EOEL concurs with the amendments being offered by the Department of Health to clarify the importance of focusing on child abuse and neglect prevention for our highest-risk families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Testimony on HB 908 (SB 1139) RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

House & Human Services Committees

Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice-Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi
and Committee Members Rida Cabanilla, Jo Jordan, Justin Woodson, Lauren Cheape & Beth Fukumoto

February 6, 2013 10:05am

Conference Room

State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Staff member

Child & Family Service

Aloha e Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi and Committee members,

I am Jodi Aiu, Program Administrator for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am testifying **in strong support of HB 908 (SB 1139)**. 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.

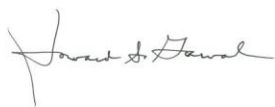
The importance of Healthy Start is prevention. Hawai'i Healthy Start's statewide history boasts over 99% of at risk families enrolled a year or more in the program had no report of child abuse. This bill supports a proactive state model to be proud of.

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

Kimberly Allen
Performance Manager
State of Hawaii - Department of Health
Page 2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Hama". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:53 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jarizumi@carrierhawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB908 on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM

HB908

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Arizumi	Child & Family Service	Support	No

Comments: Healthy Start is a proactive program that prevents childhood abuses and future problems in children development. I strongly support this program.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 6, 2013



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Testimony on HB 908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Joint House Health and Human Services Committees

Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 10:05 a.m.

Conference Room 329, State Capitol

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

Aloha, Chairs Bellati and Carroll, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Kobayashi 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

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Testimony on HB 908 (SB 1139) RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM
House & Human Services Committees

Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice-Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi
and Committee Members Rida Cabanilla, Jo Jordan, Justin Woodson, Lauren Cheape & Beth Fukumoto
February 6, 2013 10:05am

Conference Room
State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Ginger Meyers (staff member)
Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi
and Committee members,

I am Ginger Meyers, Senior Family Support Worker for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am **strongly testifying in support of HB 908 (SB 1139)**; specifically the verbiage that relates to home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect.

The significance of Healthy Start is prevention. This bill supports just that. 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 (SB 1139).

I am humbly asking 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Respectfully,

Ginger Meyers

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State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Staff member

Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi and Committee members,

I am Carrie Somera, Sr. Family Support Worker for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am testifying **in strong support of HB 908 (SB 1139)**. Specifically, the verbiage that relates to home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and in efforts to reduce child abuse and neglect.

There is nothing more important that we can do as a state and our Keiki than preventing child abuse. At Child and Family Service our mission is **strengthen families and fostering the healthy development of children**, so I think you can see why we strongly support HB 908 (SB 1139). 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 many 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. I believe this speaks to the effectiveness of home visitation services for high at 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 this testimony.

Respectfully,

Carrie Somera

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February 6, 2013 10:05am

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Testimony submitted by: Leilani Landry
Child & Family Service

Aloha Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi and Committee members. I am Leilani Landry, Program Supervisor of the Healthy Start program at 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 (SB 1139)**.

Hawaii's Healthy Start program began as a demonstration child abuse prevention project in July 1985. A nationally recognized program, Hawaii Healthy Start has been replicated in the United States, Canada, and the Philippines. Healthy Start is currently affiliated and in the process of being accredited under Healthy Families America, which is recognized by the Federal government as an evidence-based model. Under this model, Healthy Start fosters family functioning, promotes child health/development, and enhances positive parenting skills for families engaged in services in order to reduce the risk of child maltreatment by addressing the malleable environmental risk factors via information, support, and linkages to needed community resources.

The Governor publicly touted Healthy Start during his gubernatorial campaign and was one of the original legislators to sponsor the first Healthy Start program 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.

At Child & Family Service our mission is **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children**, so this is why I strongly support **HB 908 (SB 1139)**. 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. Together, with your support, we can continue to help prevent child abuse and neglect in the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Leilani Landry

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Aloha United Way

February 6, 2013



Testimony on HB 908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Joint House Health and Human Services Committees

Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 10:05 a.m.

Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Karen Tan, Vice President of Programs, Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chairs Bellati and Carroll, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Kobayashi and Committee members. I am Karen Tan, Vice President of Programs 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.

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.

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 these programs is that they provide intervention 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,

Karen Tan, LCSW
Vice President of Programs
Child & Family Service

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Aloha United Way

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Testimony submitted by: Staff member
Child & Family Service

Aloha Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll, Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand Kobayashi and Committee Members,

I am Retchel Manipon, Child Development Specialist for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am testifying in strong support of HB 908 (SB 1139), particularly the portion that relates to home visiting in effort to reduce child abuse.

In May of 1988 Healthy Start of Child & Family Services has opened its doors to serve families from Central Oahu, Leeward Oahu, and Waianae. Due to the budget cuts from \$10 million to \$1.5 million in 2009, many jobs were reduced which eliminated services in some areas in Leeward Oahu and most of Central Oahu.

This bill grounds in mandate 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 the families to Healthy Start Home Visitation program. Healthy Start is in the process of being accredited under the Healthy Families of America which is recognized by the Federal government as an evidence-based model.

It is very important that families continue to learn about the prevention of child abuse and neglect and to also keep Hawaii as a leader in the prevention of child abuse.

Respectfully,
Retchel Manipon

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Testimony submitted by: Staff Member

Child and Family Service

Aloha! Chairs Della Au Belatti, & Mele Carroll; Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa and Bertrand Kobayashi & committee members.

I am Gwendolyn K. Shimabukuro, Family Support Worker of Child and Family Service Healthy Start Oahu. I have been employed here since August 22, 1989 going into my 24th year. I am testifying in **very strong support of HB 908(SB1139)** especially the part that relates to the home visiting in an effort to reduce child abuse and neglect.

Child and Family Service started the home visiting program almost 25 years ago, in May of 1988. The Waianae Healthy Start office was established and opened its doors for what was to be and still is as an effort to reduce/ prevent child abuse and neglect in our families for the safety of our children. I am thankful and grateful that we indeed have a history since, as a dedicated worker in the services we provide to our families and children. But due to the reduction of funds in 2009 of ten million dollars was reduced to 1.5 million, it caused Child and Family Service to layoff Family Support Workers and limiting those who remained in servicing the Leeward and East Hawai'i areas to one program unit. We are presently housed at Child and Family Service. We want to continue to do our utmost to assist our children and the children to come with our parents. We are in the process of being accredited under the Healthy Families of America which is recognized by the Federal Government as an evidence-based model.

I know that the work we do to assist our families and children has been successful and we have families who have stated if it had not been for Healthy Start they would have not understood their children, the importance to know the age appropriate development process, the indentifying of non-verbal cues, attachment and bonding and all the rest of the important and needed information parents need to know about their newborns. We are all responsible and should be concerned about our future generation. We are proud to state that Hawai'i Healthy Start statewide history can say that over...over 99% of at risk families enrolled a year or more in the program had no report of child abuse. The bill supports a proactive state model to certainly be proud of.

Your abounding dedication, strong support and thoughtful consideration is most gratefully appreciated.

Aloha Pumehana,
Gwendolyn Kaleolani Shimabukuro

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

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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Colleen Wong

PROGRAM RESOURCES

JoAnn Freed
Early Childhood Consultant

ACCREDITATION

Council on Accreditation

AFFILIATIONS

Alliance for Children
and Families

Hawaii Island

United Way

Maui United Way

Kauai United Way



Testimony on HB908/SB1139 Relating to Hawaii Home Visiting Program
House and Human Service Committees
Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll; Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa & Bertrand
Kobayashi and Committee Members Rida Cabanilla, Jo Jordan, Justin Woodson,
Lauren Cheape & Beth Fukumoto
February 6, 2013 10:05 a.m.
Conference Room
State Capitol
Testimony submitted by: Staff Member
Child and Family Services

Aloha Chairs Della Au Belatti & Mele Carroll; Vice Chairs Dee Morikawa &
Bertrand Kobayashi and Committee Members,

I am testifying in full support of HB908/SB1139. As a mother and a worker in the
human service field for over 15 years, I know the importance and the need for early
intervention programs. These programs, specifically home visitation programs such
as Healthy Start, promote the health, safety and early education of babies and
children, as well as help to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,
Laarni Ramolete
Family Support Worker
Healthy Start Oahu

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

February 2nd, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Momi Akana
Executive Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As an Executive Director of a Native Hawaiian non-profit agency, I am writing in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. Having provided home visiting programs since 1999, through the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters and the Parents As Teachers models, we have seen the improvement in families' lives that these programs can make. Not only is the parent/child relationship changed, as the parent learns to anticipate developmental and social, emotional milestones, but the parent is empowered to choose appropriate responses. We have seen home visiting programs be especially effective with young parents, and parents experiencing several high risk factors.

In addition to these outcomes, home visiting programs are also proven effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. As there is a close correlation between to educational achievement and improved health outcome, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding. This inclusion will bring the federal and state objectives into alignment.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

Momi Akana
Executive Director

Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 2nd, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Angela Lopes
HIPPY Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a coordinator for the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngster, home visiting program and having 13 years of experience in Hawaii, I write in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. HB908 is important to the families of Hawaii because it will enable home visiting programs, like HIPPY, to continuing changing the lives of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes. We have see first hand the dramatic impact these family based, research driving program make in our communities throughout Hawaii.

In addition to strong health related outcomes, such as abuse and neglect prevention, we have also experienced the home visiting programs' effect on improving in school readiness and achievement. Due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes, federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires state grantees to make quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness. Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding.

I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908 to support healthy families throughout Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

Angela Lopes
HIPPY Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 2nd, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Wayna Buch
Professional Development and Training Department
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As an Early Childhood Educator for over thirty-five years, I write in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. The HB908 bill is critical in Hawaii's efforts to strengthen families, and prepare children for school and later learning. Through Home Visiting programs we will be able to see measurable improvements in school readiness and outcomes as a reporting benchmark, due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes.

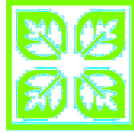
HB908 further, seeks to address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models.

Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

Wayna Buch
Professional Development and Training Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 908 (with amendments): Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

TO: Representative Della Au Bellatti, Chair, Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Health, and Representative Mele Carroll, Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair and members of the Committee on Human Services

FROM: Darlene Beatty, Division Administrator, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Hearing: Wednesday, 2/6/13; 10:05 am; CR 329

I am Darlene Beatty of Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports HB 908 which would establish the Hawaii Home Visiting Program that includes both statewide hospital screening for early identification and home visiting services for all children born in Hawaii in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports the following amendments as recommended by the Department of Health, to HB 908: Page 1, line 12: insert “including child abuse and neglect” after “...adverse health and safety concerns.”

Page 2, line 16: delete “(1) Include proactive, universal screening of all births, using a tool designated by the department of health; and” and replace with “(1) Provide proactive, universal screening of newborns’ families, using one or more screening tools validated for identifying levels of risk for poor health and safety outcomes and child abuse and neglect as designated by the department of health;”

Page 2, line 22: insert “(3) Consider as a high priority families at risk for poor health outcomes, child abuse, or neglect.”

Hawaii has a long history of providing early identification and home visiting services 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 only 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 all children born in Hawaii to receive early identification and home visiting services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Catholic Charities Hawaii urges you to pass HB 908 with the specified amendments.



February 3, 2013

Representative Bella Au Bellatti, Chair, House Health Committee
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, House Health Committee
Representative Mele Carroll, Chair, House Human Services Committee
Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, House Human Services Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329
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 2009-2011.

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; approximately \$378,021,600 for the lifetimes of the 1,800 children confirmed for maltreatment in 2008 per CDC estimates according to a Star Advertiser article. (Karen Worthington, 2-2-12) The CDC estimates the life-time costs for one abuse/neglect case at \$210,012,

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

February 2, 2013 (For February 6th Hearing)

Representative Della Au Bellatti, Chair, House Health Committee
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair, House Health Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representatives Au Bellatti, Dee Morikawa, and members of the Health Committee

I am Linda Coble, an advocate for child abuse prevention for three decades. As I understand it, the Department of Health is seeking to re-build a system of home visiting services for families of newborns in need of extra support in parenting. These services will address a range of needs, including child health and development, early learning, and prevention of child maltreatment.

I support the efforts of the Department to creatively use all existing resources to improve the development of young children in the most formative years of birth to three. However, as someone who has followed the issue of child abuse and its prevention...first as a reporter and TV anchor, and then as a Board member for an organization providing services... I urge you to prioritize services to those families who are most at risk for maltreatment. The consequences of child abuse and neglect are too serious for the child and the family. Many studies show links between early abuse and emotional problems, substance abuse, delinquency and chronic health problems. Prevention now will greatly reduce costs down the road.

The Healthy Start program, which was the model for and is now under certification as Healthy Families America, has done a good job in leading the way in prevention of child abuse. These early identification and home visitation services need to be restored and maintained for those at highest risk in communities across the state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this extremely important matter.

Sincerely,

Linda Coble

February 3, 2013

Representative Bella Au Bellatti, Chair, House Health Committee
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, House Health Committee
Representative Mele Carroll, Chair, House Human Services Committee
Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, House Human Services Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Dear Committee Chairs and Members,

My name is Lisa Maddock. I am a Licensed Social Worker and previously a Site Manager at the Hana Like Healthy Start Home Visiting Program, which serviced the East Honolulu area. I worked for the Healthy Start program for four years from 2001-2005.

From the time I started working at this program I thought it was an invaluable service to families. I think anyone, regardless of their risk factors, could benefit from Home Visiting services during the first few years of their child's life. It is an understatement to say that parenting is an incredibly tough job for everyone. If you add in additional stressors many families experience (i.e., history of child abuse themselves, loss of a job, history of drugs/alcohol, mental health issues, domestic violence, etc...) then that job becomes increasingly difficult and the children end up at risk.

The Healthy Start Home Visiting program didn't just teach parents about child development – though this was a key component to the program. It also helped parents in all areas of their lives such as employment, obtaining public benefits, counseling, domestic violence interventions, prenatal care, housing, school readiness, and more. All of these areas helped to create a lower-stress environment and an overall healthier family unit. I saw families enter our program in very precarious situations and still thrive as parents.

With the new services available in the Hawaii Home Visiting Network, it won't be necessary to restore the Healthy Start program for all families at risk. However, it will be important to restore state-wide risk screening and intensive services aimed at averting abuse and neglect for families at highest risk for maltreatment as a major priority. Helping families with multiple ACE factors to provide safe and more nurturing homes for their infants and toddlers is an important part 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,

Lisa Maddock

Lisa Maddock, LSW

January 25, 2013

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

RE: 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 2nd, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Carla Hostetter
Research and Evaluation Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As research professional with eight years of experience evaluating home visiting programs in Hawaii, I write in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. HB908 is critical as it seeks to address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models. These models have been proven to be effective through rigorous national studies and have been approved for federal funding by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, the selected home visiting programs are also proven effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. In fact, the federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness and establishes this outcome as a reporting benchmark, due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes. Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

Carla Hostetter
Research and Evaluation Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 6, 2013

Testimony on HB 908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Joint House Health and Human Services Committees

Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 10:05 a.m.

Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by:

Carol Ai May, Vice President, City Mill Company, Ltd.
and Child & Family Service Board Member

Dear Chairs Bellati and Carroll, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Kobayashi and Committee members.

My name is Carol Ai May and I am the owner and Vice President of City Mill Company, Ltd, a 114-year old Kama'aina company employing 500 Hawaii residents. I am also on the Board 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 CFS and I 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.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Ai May
Vice President, City Mill Company, Ltd.
Board Member, Child & Family Service

February 2nd, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Gina I
Kulia I Ka Nu`u Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a former 9 year home visitor and a current Program Director with Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers, I write in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. HB908 is critical as it seeks to address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models. These models have been proven to be effective through rigorous national studies and have been approved for federal funding by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, the selected home visiting programs are also proven effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. In fact, the federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness and establishes this outcome as a reporting benchmark, due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes. Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

Gina I
Kulia I Ka Nu`u Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 3:59 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jshibuya56@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB908 on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM

HB908

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanie Shibuya	Child & Family Service	Support	No

Comments: I ask for your support of this bill to preserve home visitation programs to prevent child abuse for the highest risk families. Programs such as Healthy Start help prevent child abuse.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Honorable Representative Bella Au Bellatti, Chair, House Health Committee
Honorable Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, House Health Committee
Honorable Representative Mele Carroll, Chair, House Human Services Committee
Honorable Representative Bert Kobayashi, Vice-Chair, House Human Services Committee
Other Honorable Committee Members

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

10:05 a.m.

Conference Room 329

STRONG SUPPORT - HB 908 – RELATING 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 social and economic problems.

Instead of providing research and statistics on how home visitor programs help our community save both social and economical costs by keeping children safe, preventing crime, etc., I share my personal experience having a home visitor when I was the new mother of a baby girl at age 18 in Santa Cruz, California.

Forty-two years later, and I still have vivid recollections of the strength-based home visitor who saw my baby and me in 1970 after I gave birth. Instead of criticizing my decision to become a parent when I was a young high school drop out, with little resources, she complimented me on what I was doing right and my strengths. She helped me find ways to quickly become educated and independent.

I am happy to report that today my daughter is a University of California graduate who earned her MBA at the University of Hawai'i, and is an amazing mother of three children. Her parenting skills easily eclipsed mine. I also went to college, served as a deputy attorney general for 10 years, and later became a public health educator and restorative lawyer working mainly with marginalized populations. I develop conflict management programs and work with people harmed by crime, those in prison, and in anyway involved with the criminal justice system. I evaluate the programs' outcomes and write about them, publishing widely.

I believe part of my daughter's and my successes are owed in part to the home visitor we had so many years ago who helped guide me onto a positive life path.

Everyday I see the tragedy of how a lack of resources, substance abuse, crime, and prison harms children and families. I appreciate the vast amounts we currently spend punishing people for making bad decisions that rarely improves their behavior or helps people heal. My experiences also as a guardian ad litem, and as a lawyer in child abuse and neglect cases, supports my belief in supporting prevention measures like the home visitor program.

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.

Please see my website www.lorennwalker.com for a description of my background including the papers and books that I have authored, mainly about my work.

Thank you for your time and efforts serving the public.

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 4:08 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jsyokota@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB908 on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM

HB908

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Yokota	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill to preserve home visitation programs to prevent child abuse for the highest risk families.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 4:16 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: arnold.martines@centralpacificbank.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB908 on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM*

HB908

Submitted on: 2/4/2013

Testimony for HLT/HUS on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arnold Martines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 4th, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Donnalei Gaison
Parents as Teachers Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a Home Visitor for Parents As Teachers for over 4 years, I write in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. HB908 is critical as it seeks to address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models. These models have been proven to be effective through rigorous national studies and have been approved for federal funding by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, the selected home visiting programs are also proven effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. In fact, the federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness and establishes this outcome as a reporting benchmark, due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes. Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

Donnalei Gaison
Parents As Teachers Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 2, 2013

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Erin Henderson
ABC Parent Coach
Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers

Re: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a parent coach of the Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) intervention, I write in support of HB908, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. HB908 is critical as it seeks to address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models. ABC is a model that aims to strengthen the attachment bond between a primary caregiver and a baby – a secure attachment is beneficial for a baby to grow in to an independent, confident child who is resilient.

Home visiting is the vital missing piece to success of today's families – many of the families I worked with said, "I wish you were here when I had my first child." These expressions outline how critical it is that support is in the home from day one. Stressors on primary caregivers, especially "not knowing," can and will impact that person's ability to care for an infant in the best way possible. Regardless of how many books one reads, the nearly universal consensus is that a book will never prepare a parent enough to raise a child. The best support comes from a person.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.



Erin Henderson
ABC Parent Coach & Coordinator
Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers

January 25, 2013

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

RE: 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, grandmother and a non-profit employee whose agency's mission is to prevent Child Abuse and Neglect, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Evidence based programs such as Early Identification and Home Visiting allows the staff to be 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 with crucial support in the areas of 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.

Sincerely,

C. Momi Medeiros
1502 Koene Place
Wailuku, HI 96793
anakemomi@yahoo.com

February 5, 2013

The House Committee on Health
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chairman
The Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chairman

The Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chairman
The Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chairman

Subject: Testimony regarding: HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Aloha Kākou:

I offer this testimony in support of HB908. I am an educator with over 40 years of experience including early learning and the management of home visiting programs in Hawai'i and I strongly support HB908. This bill would establish a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. HB908 is critical as it seeks to address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models. These models have been proven to be effective through rigorous national studies and have been approved for federal funding by the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, the selected home visiting programs are also proven effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. In fact, the federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness and establishes this outcome as a reporting benchmark, due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes. Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in HB908 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding.

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in HB908.

Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB908.

‘O wau iho nō, (Sincerely)

Rona D. Rosco Rodenhurst
Early Childhood Education Director
Keiki O Ka ‘Āina Family Learning Centers
3097 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819
rona@keikiokaaina.org

January 25, 2013

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

RE: 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 early childhood educator, 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,

Traci Hisatake
PO BOX 826
Makawao, HI 96768
hisatake@hawaii.edu

February 5, 2013

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, House Health Committee
Hawaii State Legislature, Room 329

Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: House Bill 908

Dear Representative Belotti and members of the Health 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 Relating to Home Visiting.

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 and other early childhood supports were 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 support, child abuse 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