

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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committees on Health and Human Services**

**H.B. 908, Relating to Hawaii Home Visiting Program**

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

**February 6, 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 It is noted that the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget for FB 13-15 includes a request for  
15 \$3 million for each year of the fiscal biennium to add funds for the Home Visitation Program.

16 As a result of our on-going commitment and collaboration with community partners, the  
17 Department would suggest the following amendments to ensure clarity and priority for at risk families:  
18 Page 1, line 12: insert "including child abuse and neglect" after "...adverse health and safety concerns."  
19 Page 2, line 16: delete "(1) Include proactive, universal screening of all births, using a tool designated  
20 by the department of health; and" and replace with "(1) Provide proactive, universal screening of  
21 newborns' families, using one or more screening tools validated for identifying levels of risk for poor  
22 health and safety outcomes and child abuse and neglect as designated by the department of health;"  
23 Page 2, line 22: insert "(3) Consider as a high priority, families at risk for poor health outcomes, child  
24 abuse, or neglect."

1           These revisions provide clarity and ensure that the Department shall prioritize families within the  
2 limits of available funds.

3           Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

February 4, 2013

TO: Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Committee on Health  
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair  
Representative Rida T.R. Cabanilla  
Representative Mele Carroll  
Representative Jo Jordan  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi  
Representative Justin H. Woodson  
Representative Lauren Kealohilani Cheape  
Representative Mele Carroll Chair  
Committee on Human Services  
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair  
Representative Della Au Belatti  
Representative Rida T.R. Cabnilla  
Representative Jo Jordan  
Representative Dee Morikawa  
Representative Justin H. Woodson  
Representative Beth Fukumoto

February 6, 2013 10:05 Conference Room 329

FROM: Marty Oliphant, Executive Director  
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: HB 908 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program - **SUPPORT**

Representative Della Au Belatti Chair, Representative Dee Morikawa Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Health & Representative Mele Carroll Chair, Representative Bertrand Kobayashi Vice Chair, and members of the House Committee on Human Services, my name is Marty Oliphant. I serve as the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter (NASW). I support the intent HB 908 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program.

This bill will establish a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect. The reduction of child abuse and neglect will have a profound positive impact on children and their families. Prevention efforts will strengthen the protective factors that influence the healthy development of children. In addition, support services such as Home Visiting Program and Healthy Start, will enhance the skills set and knowledge base of the parents/caregivers involved in the raising of children.

I urge your favorable consideration of HB 908. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alan D. Ostermiller

Aloha Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Alan Ostermiller and I support HB908 and the Home Visiting/Early Identification (EID) and Outreach And Resources Specialists (OARS) programs. I am a Father of 4 Children and 2 Hanai Children I grew up in Kailua and now Maui is our home. I am veteran of 3 combat tours in Iraq, Panama and Haiti. I served over 12 years with the 100/442, so I have seen first hand and can testify to you about the harsh, hayness, and incomprehensible effects, of war on children and families. For the past 28 days I have been part of the Fatherhood Involvement home visit team on the island of Maui and I can honestly tell you and witness to the fact that the war on families is not in Iraq, or Afganistan but it is here on our home shores of Hawaii. The conditions that I have seen from the flies, stale food, to the cockroaches to the internal unsanitary conditions of many of the homes that we deal with are similar if not worse than those I have seen overseas when this is America. Parents and families that are in a repeat cycle of substance abuse, physical abuse and neglect are preparing to teach and train another generation for the same evil. You have an opportunity to help stop this by supporting this bill.

This legislation facilitates a very high payoff program for Hawaii's Families and for our Government. Early identification of special needs and problems with children, children's health, and parenting is an incredible concept. This concept gets to initial problems and difficulties before they manifest into major issues that require a lot more attention and resources. This is a preemptive strike, so to speak, that not only saves families and helps children, but it save money for our Government by getting to the root of family issues before they become full blown CPS and VCM cases.

Voting yes to support this program is establishes a win, win situation for all. Countless lives have been changed in a positive manner and many serious situations have been averted because of Home Visiting/Early Identification (EID) and Outreach And Resources Specialists (OARS) programs.

A “No” vote on this bill would create problems and difficulties that can not even begin to measured against the families of Hawaii. When it comes to passing HB908 the positive benefits far out weigh the negative and your support to this bill would identify you as an advocate for Hawaii’s Families and Children.

Please, cast your “YES” vote to continue this vital program and maintain this high level of care and Aloha for Hawaii’s families. Mahalo

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
GOD FOR THIS PROGRAM, STAFFS, HOME-VISITORS AND  
THEIR SUPERVISORS, AND EVERYBODY. I DON'T <sup>KNOW</sup> 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 ~~AND 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 ~~WISH~~ WOULD FORGET ABOUT APPOINTMENT  
BUT GOOD THINGS I HAVE THE HOME-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

E.H.S - HB

To Whom It May Concern,

02/04/2013

This letter is regarding my history with the Healthy Start Program. I have been with the program for almost 5 years now and have nothing but great things to say about it. This program has helped my family and I when we have needed it the most. When I have had no one to turn to, Healthy Start has been there. I truly consider my support worker as family. She has been a beacon of hope and someone to hold my hand through the tough times. Without the help of my support worker and the clinical specialists, I'm really not sure what I would be doing right now.

Children do not come with an owner's manual and in the beginning stages; they cannot properly express themselves or explain their needs. There is no such thing as a perfect parent; however I would like to think we all strive for it. This program has helped me understand the things that my children do and has given them a voice before they could speak. Sometimes we all need someone to better explain the situation so we can handle it a different way. I have been given an abundance of tools; such as better understanding the developmental stages of children, disciplinary skills, and ways to reduce and better handle stress through this program. They are absolutely priceless.

When you are in the hospital and handed this beautiful being that you are now responsible for it is an amazing feeling, but an also overwhelming and stressful one. Having the Healthy Start people come right to your room and make sure you are doing okay and offer their services to those new parents who might not have a clue what to do with this new responsibility is an absolute necessity! There is a definite need for this program and there are so many families out there that rely on these amazing people to help them out in any way that they can. People like me who look forward to the visits and the exchanging of stories and love.

I strongly urge you to keep funding this program! It is extremely important to our families and our keiki!

Thank you,

Amy Grima

(808) 258-2330



February 5, 2013

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

**RE: HB908: Home Visiting and Early Identification Services.**

Dear House and Senate Members:

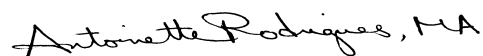
I am writing to ask the state Legislature to support this important bill, which has long-term impacts on the future of our community. As a resident of Maui, a wife, mother and a mental health practitioner for over 30 years, I have witnessed how home visiting programs have strengthened our local families.

Research shows that early identification of at-risk families—and providing them with home visiting services—does prevent child abuse and neglect and is also cost-effective. *It is much more expensive to intervene with families who have already abused their children, than to prevent child abuse from occurring in the first place.* It is documented that child abuse and neglect leads to expensive and devastating future consequences. The Hawaii Home Visiting Program identifies and provides support to at-risk families—teen parents, low-income families, families with histories of mental health, domestic violence or substance abuse problems—and provides them with the education, resources and support to overcome these challenges.

Although prevention of child abuse and neglect is a primary focus, home visiting has also decreased the number of low birth-weight babies, learning delays and need for special education services, and reliance on public assistance. Home visiting practitioners believe it is best to influence the family prenatally and when the child is young, so that good behaviors and positive outcomes will progress through the child's and family's life span. Families with infants, or who are expecting a baby, are often more open to adopting healthier life choices (for example, stopping tobacco and illegal drug use; and using non-physical discipline methods) for the sake of their children.

Healthy families produce healthy children; which produces healthy communities, a thriving economy and a strong state. By supporting the Bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program and Early Identification Services, you will positively impact the lives of *keiki* for many generations to come. Mahalo for attending to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Antoinette Rodrigues, MA  
35 Holomakani Drive  
Kula, HI 96790  
808-264-9392  
rodrigues@hawaii.rr.com

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 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

From: Barbara A Tanner, MS, APRN  
Health Specialist at Maui Family Support Services  
175 Ehilani Street  
Makawao, Hawaii 96768  
February 5, 2013

**To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health**  
**To: The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair on Human Services**  
**Members of the House Committees on Health and Human Services**

**Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2013**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m.**  
**Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

Re: HB 908 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

I am testifying in support of HB 908. 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  
Bmauigirl2000@yahoo.com

January 24, 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 and an employee involved in family support services, 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

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 Parent/Child Educator with the Early Head Start Program, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Early Identification and Home Visiting staff are the eyes, ears and voices 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
- Providing activities and informational handouts which promote parent and child bonding and children's ultimate success in all major developmental domains – cognition, language, gross & fine-motor skills and social-emotional
- Attending scheduled preventative well baby checkups, immunizations and dental checkups
- Conducting periodic screenings to catch any delays in physical and social-emotional development for early therapeutic interventions
- Positive parenting skills and mental health support
- 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. They truly make a difference in our community. As an example of that, one of my participants expressed how grateful she is by stating, "If it wasn't for you guys, we wouldn't know anything...I mean, you guys helped me and my husband to raise our baby! Thanks a lot!" That statement brought tears to my eyes and once again confirmed how important and needed these programs are in our community, as they make a positive difference in the lives of so many families.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pennington  
P.O. Box 3133, Wailuku 96793  
cyntiap@hawaiiantel.net

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 Enhanced Healthy Start Family Support 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,

Dorene M. Maldonado

495 Liholiho Street, Apt #104, Wailuku, HI 96793

808-359-3306

mstazmaui@yahoo.com



February 5, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

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

240A Maha Road

Makawao, HI 96768

572-1181

[jeboe@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jeboe@hawaii.rr.com)



January 24, 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 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 services and from such, a successful impact from utilizing 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

The Healthy Start Program is a pivotal service within the communities of our state. The service in which parents and other primary caregivers receive information to help support their child(ren) physical, developmental, emotional, and psychological growth is in critical need of your support.

Already, there have been instances in which families that could have received Healthy Start Program services, are now eligible to receive the State Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services and the number is expected to increase taxing our State's economy even more. The number of families projected to receive high end services from the State can only increase as finances and the stress of family dynamics affect the lives of our young citizens.

Support of HB 908 and the Hawaii Home Visiting Program initiative will demonstrate your commitment to ensure the future of our State. Your commitment to support the families and children of our local communities is a commitment to our State's future and your future as our leader.

Respectfully,  
Glenna Okamura, Citizen  
State of Hawaii

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

Home Visiting and Early Identification services as identified in the Bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program.

Dear House and Senate Members:

This letter is in support of the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. With these services families that are at risk can be located and they can get support in providing for their babies and giving their children a good start in life.

I am a grandmother of two American boys and I work as a social worker and have experienced the wonderful positive impact these services have for families with young children. With these vital services of people doing home visits to families, any problems are picked up at a very early stage and the staff help the parents to get help for their children. Home Visiting programs provide support to parents in helping them to be their children's first teachers and to advocate for them. They support families to take their children for their well baby checkups and immunizations. They do screenings at certain ages of the children in order to catch any delays in their development. They help the parents prepare their children to be school ready by teaching them the necessary skills.

All of the above help towards keeping costs to the State to the minimum and ensures healthy children who will one day be an asset to the Hawaiian community.

Sincerely,

HERMINA BOOYSEN

P O BOX 1861

WAILUKU, HI 96793

herminabooyesen@yahoo.com

employment and services. 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 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

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

91-1841 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone 808.681.3500  
Fax 808.681.5280  
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Alliance for Children  
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Hawaii Island

United Way

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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: Justiana Kalilimoku (staff member)  
Child & Family Service

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

I am Justiana Kalilimoku, 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 in effort to reduce child abuse and neglect, and enhancing health and safety outcomes.

Here at Child & Family Service our mission is, “Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children.” The importance of Healthy Start is prevention, which this bill supports. Nothing is more important than keeping our children safe and preventing them from being a victim of child abuse and neglect.

I am humbly asking for your support of this bill to preserve home visiting programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Thank you for your time and opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Justiana Kalilimoku



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ACCREDITATIONS

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



Aloha United Way

Testimony on HB 908 (SB 1139) 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 Service

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

I am Kathleen Westbrook, Family Support Worker of Child and Family Service Healthy Start Oahu. I have been employed with CFS for almost three years. I am testifying in **very strong support of HB 908(SB1139)**. I am a home visitor and support the home visiting program for families with child abuse, neglect and domestic violence in their homes.

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 programs that can help the needy families with this kind of issues that we are able to change lives of families from negative attitude to positive ways and build up their self-esteem. We want to continue to do our best to assist our children and 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. 2009 when the funding of ten million dollars was reduced to 1.5 million, it reduced us the workers in servicing the Leeward and East Hawai'i areas.

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 strategies to build a solid foundation for our upcoming future leaders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Westbrook

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

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 an Registered Nurse with Enhanced Healthy Start working directly with the families everyday, 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
- Learning about The Nurturing Parenting Program and applying it to their children's lives daily to prevent child abuse.
- Helping families that struggle with unhealthy relationships that impact the entire family.
- 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
- Teaching coping skills that are so crucial in preventing child abuse in our vulnerable population of zero to three years old.
- Transportation for the families that cannot get to their doctor appointment or WIC clinic
- 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,

Kathi Jones RN,BSN, IBCLC  
763 Haiku Road Haiku, Hawaii 96708

[Kaikea777@yahoo.com](mailto:Kaikea777@yahoo.com)

808 298-9062

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 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,

Kehau Kaleiohi  
P.O. Box 6332  
Kahului, HI 96733

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** nora e [nmbe81@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 05, 2013 2:45 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** Please Support HB908 on Feb 6, 2013 10:05AM

February 4, 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 Family support worker and parent child 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 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.

Sincerely,

Leonora Etrata

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

[nmbe81@yahoo.com](mailto:nmbe81@yahoo.com)

808-559-6483

February 5, 2013

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

RE: HB908 - 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 resident of the State of Hawaii, aunt to 7 beautiful children and present worker in the fields of both education and social services, 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.

I urge you to share in your support of this bill and in the support of the children of Hawaii. This is the time we must invest our energies and resources to what matters most, the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable population, the young children and families of this beautiful State we ALL call *home*.

Respectfully,

Raenelle Coloma

P.O. Box 2172

Wailuku, HI 96793

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

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 humbly asking the state Legislature to fully support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program. The body of clinical research is clear that prevention services are critical for families because they support and provide parents with the skills needed to care for their newborns, infants and toddlers. In contrast lack of prevention services has staggering costs in lost productivity and developmental potential. I look forward to the opportunity to share the ACES Research Study with the Legislature if needed.

I am deeply concerned, personally as well as professionally because politics including funding challenges endanger our community's most valuable resources. Our community's vulnerable children and families need support when they reach out for it. Please do all you can in continuing to make our children and families a priority especially when it comes to funding in real dollars and cents. As you probably understand without funding it is impossible to offer concrete support to families in times of need, which is a well-known protective factor.

The research is clear; Home Visiting programs provide parents crucial support, in more than six major areas of development, from understanding expectations to having basic empathy for others. The program also prevents medical, physical, and social-emotional delays by offering free therapeutic intervention services for families and children in need.

I am a passionate social worker specializing in family prevention. I have personally dealt with the effects of childhood trauma, abuse, and addiction. I know that had my parents received early childhood educational services and support my family would have benefited.

Early Childhood Education funding is urgent! Please help by fully funding Early Childhood Education Programs so that no one in Hawaii has to experience this type of trauma in their families and communities.

Thank you in advance for your compassion,

Sara Millet, MSW



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 *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.

The children are the future workers in the community and Home Visiting services are vital for their initial development; we should consider this issue with great passion! Parents are first teachers and Early Identification and Home Visiting services provide the support in understanding child development with age appropriate skills, positive parenting skills and resources that are available in the community. Home Visiting programs are highly successful in preparing parents to teach the next generation to develop healthy family functioning practices.

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, helping to avoid expensive interventions for the state in the future.

With respect,

Tammy Ruiz  
P.O. BOX 3076, Wailuku, Hi 96793

January 25, 2013

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

RE: HB908 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 of Maui and a non-profit worker of 20 years, For years now I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. I for one have a few friends that help them and their families from the programs that is being offered for free. 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,

Zina Andrade

Zina Andrade  
Zina\_96793@yahoo.com