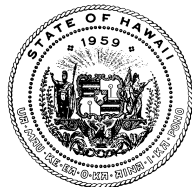


**HTH HEARING**

**HB908, HD2**

**TESTIMONY**



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

## Senate Committee on Health

### H.B. 908, H.D. 2, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

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

March 20, 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.

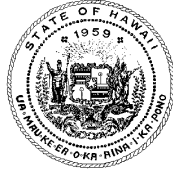
3 **Fiscal Implications:** Funding would be required to maintain and support the Hawaii Home Visiting  
4 Program.

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

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

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

16 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING  
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK  
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of  
H.B. 908 H.D. 2, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program  
By Terry Lock, Director

Senate Committee on Health  
March 20, 2013  
2:15 p.m., Room 229

Chair Green, Vice-Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha, I am Terry Lock, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL is in support of House Bill 908 House Draft 2.

H.B. 908 H.D. 2 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](http://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).

We defer to the Department of Health on matters contained in this bill that are under their jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

March 20, 2013

Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Senator Roz Baker, Vice Chair, Senate Health Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Honolulu, Hi 96813

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

Dear Senators Green and Committee Members,

I am Gail Breakey, Executive Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute testifying in support of HB 9008, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

**This bill supports Healthy Start program sites in major areas of need in Hilo-Puna, Leeward Oahu, Kalihi and Kauai to prevent abuse and neglect among high risk families of newborns, as well as hospital based screening in these areas. Funding needed is \$3M, which was cut from the administration's budget.**

**This is important because:**

**Most serious abuse and death occur among our youngest keiki:**

- **Children under age 1 are largest age group for Hawaii abuse cases ( 2010)**
- **Half of confirmed child abuse cases are among children under age five.**
- **Hospitalization of infants for abuse has increased nationwide in past decade.**

**Child abuse costs our state millions:**

- **The CDC estimates the life-time costs for one abuse/neglect case at \$210,012; the Star Advertiser estimated the cost to Hawaii at \$378,021,600 for 2008.**
- Major studies show strong 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.

**Early child abuse has a long term negative impact because**

- **70% of brain development is completed by age one.**
- Toxic stress e.g. abuse, neglect and domestic violence negatively impact developing brain architecture, creating long term post-traumatic stress.

Healthy Start conducts hospital based screening to engage families of newborns at high 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 there has been no confirmed abuse for 99.8% of children among the 505 families served in Leeward Oahu from 2009-2013. Most of these cases were categorized as threatened harm or maltreatment of a sibling of the infant rather than maltreatment of the target infant.

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,

**Error! Objects cannot be created from editing field codes.**

Gail Breakey, Executive Director  
Hawaii Family Support Institute



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

### **Testimony in Support of HB 908, HD2: Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program**

**TO:** Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Health Committee

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

**Hearing: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 2:15 pm, Conference Room 229**

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

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

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

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

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





Date: March 19, 2013

To: Honorable Josh Green  
Honorable Rosalyn Baker

From: Lin Joseph  
Director of Program Services  
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

Re: In support of  
**HB908 SD2**

Hearing: Committee on Health  
March 20, 2013  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

March of Dimes Foundation

Hawaii Chapter  
1580 Makaloa Street, Suite 1200  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Telephone (808) 973-2155  
Inter-island 1-800-272-5240  
Fax (808) 973-2160

[marchofdimes.com/hawaii](http://marchofdimes.com/hawaii)

Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for HB908 SD2: *Hawaii Home Visiting Program*.

For 75 years, the March of Dimes has been a leader in maternal and child health. Our mission is to *improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality*.

The Hawaii Healthy Start home visiting program has a long history in Hawaii, beginning as a demonstration project in 1985 and expanding statewide by 2001. Hawaii Healthy Start was widely recognized nationally and has been replicated in the U.S. and Canada. With the budget cuts of 2009, Hawaii's home visiting program has been reduced to only two programs.

Home visiting can provide screening for maternal and child health, developmental delays and child maltreatment. Care givers can be supported in learning positive parenting skills, problem solving, and linking to community resources. Home visiting programs are designed to work with parents to improve developmental, educational and health outcomes for young children and their families, and to promote healthy behavior such as quitting smoking and maintaining a healthy diet. Benefits of home visiting include increased school readiness and lower health care costs.

Evaluations of home visiting programs have shown improvements in child development and maternal and child health, as well as decreased rates of child maltreatment and juvenile justice. Hawaii Healthy Start has been shown in many cases to prevent child abuse and neglect. Approximately 98 percent of families enrolled in Hawaii Healthy Start for at least 12 months had no confirmed reports of child abuse or neglect. Preventing child abuse and neglect can decrease costs associated with emergency care and hospitalizations, child welfare services and foster care. Funding the Hawaii Home Visiting Program will also meet the matching funds requirement for federal funding through the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present testimony in support of HB908 SD2.



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Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
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Email cfs@cfs-hawaii.org  
www.childandfamilyservice.org

March 20, 2013



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**Testimony on HB 908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**

Senate Committee on Health

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 2:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

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

Aloha, Chair Green, Vice Chair Baker 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. **However, it is even more important that the Senate approve the Governor's budget request for \$3 million in general funds for each year of the biennium for home visitation services under the Department of Health now that the House Finance Committee has removed this funding from its draft of HB200. Also, we have heard that there was confusion among some House Finance Committee members between Enhanced Healthy Start and Healthy Start. Enhanced Healthy Start is for families who have already been reported for abuse and/or neglect and are involved with Child Welfare Services. This program is funded by DHS with TANF funds. Healthy Start is a child abuse prevention home visitation program before there is any report of child abuse and/or neglect. These are not duplicate programs!**

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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Aloha United Way

March 19, 2013

**Testimony On HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Retchel Manipon, Child Development Specialist, Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chari Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker 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, 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, Child Development Specialist, Child & Family Service

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**March 19, 2013**

**Testimony On HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 2:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Anelalani Raposas, Senior Family Support Worker, Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chari Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and Committee members.

I am writing this in strong support of the HB908 bill. I believe the Healthy Start program is great child abuse prevention program that helps parents learn the skills needed to be a nurturing parent. The support the family support workers provide is an excellent support system for not just the parent but the entire family component. I write this from not just a professional point of view but as a parent that was blessed to participate in the Healthy Start program back in 1991. I became a parent at the age of 14 to my beautiful baby boy on October 24, 1991. My Healthy start worker helped me learn about parenting, continuing my education, and being a successful adult and productive citizen. With the help of my family and my Healthy start worker I graduated high school with my class in 1994 and raised a healthy baby boy that graduated with honors from Waianae High School in 2009. I am also blessed to say I became an Administrative Secretary/Billing specialist with the Healthy Start Waianae program then moved over to the Healthy Start Oahu program as a Family support worker and currently work for the Enhanced Healthy Start program as a Senior Family Support Worker. I am honored to be able to help the families in need and to be the support system they need to help them be the best parents they can and want to be.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Anelalani Raposas, Senior Family Support Worker, Child & Family Service

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**March 19, 2013**

**Testimony On HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**  
**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Donna Fa'ainuinu, Administrative Assistant

Aloha, Chair Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and Committee members.

My name is Donna Fa'ainuinu and I would like to ask for a few minutes of your precious time to share with you why I believe that *you should support Bill #HB908.*

As one who works for Healthy Start and as a community volunteer, I can't begin to express to you the joy I experience when I talk to a young mom who has participated in the Healthy Start (0-3 yrs. old) program. Many have told me how they appreciate having such a program and how they have learned so much. The Healthy Start program here on the Leeward site of Oahu, provides clients with opportunities to participate in such activities as the "Parent Support Group". During the "Parent Support Group" sessions, our clients learn how to nurture themselves so that they can nurture their baby, how to interact with their child so that their child's developmental goals are met, how to make a simple monthly calendar which helps to remind them to keep those well baby check appointments, how to use what little food they have in their home to make a delicious meal for the family. Many, many more skills are shared with moms by our Family Support Workers during home visits.

Some of the activities that I just above mentioned may not seem like much to you and me, but to a young mom who was raised in an abusive home and who did not have the opportunity to learn these skills struggle to be the best mom that they can be.

I believe that Healthy Start (0-3 year) program is making a difference in our community and the future of many children. Please help us to continue to make a difference. Your support is much needed during these times of uncertainty.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Donna Faainuinu

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Aloha United Way

March 19, 2013

**Testimony On HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 2:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Ginger Meyers, Senior Family Support Worker, Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chari Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and Committee members.

I have been working here at Child & Family Service – Healthy Start Oahu for little over four years now. The positive impact that I have had the privilege of witnessing first hand compels me to submit **my personal testimony in STRONG support of HB908.**

Here at Healthy Start we strongly believe in PREVENTION as oppose to Intervention; as our mission states, “strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children”. With prevention we are able to strengthen the families we serve and foster the healthy development of children. This is not only a mission I stand on at work, but one that I firmly stand on at home as well with my children. I was raised in an abusive home, with four other siblings, which led to being raised by a single parent by the time I was nine years old. I am thankful beyond words for a program like Healthy Start who gets to make a resounding difference in a child (ren) life by advocating for them while building and nurturing a healthy relationship with their parent (s) while supporting them with their needs through our innumerable tools such as community resources; community resources that didn’t even exist in a parents mind before a Healthy Start worker came along and listened to their needs and then pointed out immediate community resources.

Working here at Healthy Start, has allowed me the privilege of supporting a mother who had mild mental retardation and a father who was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Together they were expecting their first child. They were screened for risk of child abuse and then referred to our voluntary Healthy Start Home Visiting Program. We served this family from prenatal till the day their daughter made three years old and successfully completed our 0-3y Healthy Start Home Visiting Program with NO report of child abuse or neglect AND their daughter now attends Head Start where both parents are heavily involved. Another testimony I’d like to share is a teen parent who had no idea of what to expect as a parent as this mother is also being raised by a single parent. Today this teen mother continues to attend high school, utilizing community resources her child is being cared for by a neighbor while dad (who graduated from high school one year ago) is working. Today they understand the importance of gentle touch, reading to their child daily, playing and spending time with one another and fostering the healthy development of their child.

As a state it is with the utmost importance that we take a stand and do what we can to prevent child abuse. I humbly ask that you kokua and support us as by keeping our program alive and funded.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit a testimony.

Ginger Meyers, Senior Family Support Worker, Child & Family Service

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

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JoAnn Freed  
Early Childhood Consultant

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AFFILIATIONS

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



Aloha United Way

**Testimony on HB908 HD2 (SB1139 SD2) RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**

Senate Committee on Health

Chair Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Committee Members Suzanne Chun Oakland, Clarence K. Nishihara and Sam Slom  
March 20, 2013 2:15pm  
Conference Room 229  
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street  
Testimony submitted by: Staff member  
Child & Family Service

Aloha e Chair Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair Senator Rosalyn H. Baker and Committee members,

I am Jodi Aiu, Program Administrator for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am testifying **in strong support of HB908 HD2 (SB1139 SD2)** 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

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Aloha United Way

**March 19, 2013**

**Testimony On HB908 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 2:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Testimony submitted by: Justiana Kalilimoku, Family Support Worker, Child & Family Service

Aloha, Chari Josh Green, Vice Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and Committee members.

I am Justiana Kalilimoku, Family Support Worker for Healthy Start of Child & Family Service. I am **strongly testifying in support of HB908**; 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 that we intervene before there is ever a report of child abuse and neglect to Child Welfare Services. 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.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Justiana Kalilimoku, Family Support Worker, Child & Family Service

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

March 20th Hearing Date  
HB908

Dear Senate Committee on Health Chair Senator Josh Green and Vice-Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker,

As an advocate for child abuse prevention for three decades, I am grateful that 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 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.

I have attended hearings on this bill, and I am encouraged by the fact that testimony has been overwhelmingly in favor of restoring early identification and home visiting services. Hawaii residents and those lawmakers representing them, are feeling the heartbeat of prevention!

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

Sincerely,  
Linda Coble

March 20, 2013

Senator Josh Green, Chair Senate Health Committee  
Senator Roz Baker, Vice-Chair Senate Health Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 908 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Dear Senators Green, Baker and Members of the Senate 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.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carol A. Plummer, MSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Research Affiliate, Consuelo Foundation

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

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## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair  
Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Other Honorable Committee Members

Wednesday March 20, 2013  
2:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and efforts serving the public.

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

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