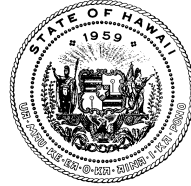


SB1139
TESTIMONY



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

SB1139, Relating to Hawaii Home Visiting Program

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

February 8, 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
16 community resources and supports. Support for home visiting is an economically prudent intervention

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

13 It is noted that the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget for FB 13-15 includes a request for
14 \$3 million for each year of the fiscal biennium to add funds for the Home Visitation Program.

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

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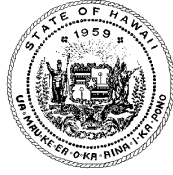
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of
S.B. 1139, Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program
By Terry Lock, Director

Senate Committee on Health
February 8, 2013
2:30 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 Senate Bill 1139.

S.B. 1139 would establish, within the Department of Health, the Hawaii Home Visiting Program to administer statewide hospital-based screening and home visiting services to identify families of newborns at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect.

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

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

Research has demonstrated the critical role that prevention of child abuse and neglect plays in early school success. Children who have been neglected or physically abused tend to perform

poorly in school, as evidenced by low grades, low standardized test scores, and frequent retention in a grade; the negative effects are even greater for neglected than for abused children (Chalk, Gibbons, & Scarupa, 2002). They tend to have lower grades, lower standardized test scores, and lower rates of grade promotion (Augustinos, 1987; Eckenrode, et al., 1991; Guterman, 2001; Wolfe & Mosk, 1983).

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

February 8th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

From: *Angela Lopes*
HIPPY Coordinator
Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Coordinator for the past 10 years, I am writing to you today in support of SB1139, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program.

In addition to the health and safety outcomes outlined in this bill, home visiting programs such as HIPPY, empower parents to be their children's first teacher. SB1139 is important to our communities because home visiting provides a home-based, family focused program that helps parents create educational enrichment for their preschool child. HIPPY believes that parents play a critical role in their children's education. The HIPPY program seeks to support parents who may not feel sufficiently confident to prepare their children for school, and is designed to remove barriers to participation in education. One of the most significant goals of HIPPY is to increase vulnerable children's success in school and, ultimately, in life.

Several home visiting programs, including HIPPY, have been approved for federal funding. Therefore, **SB1139 will allow the state to be eligible for much needed federal money through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.**

In order to **create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding**, I would ask the committee to consider language to included outcomes developed by the MIECHV funding, such as;

- Improvement in school readiness and achievement;
- Reduction in crime or domestic violence;
- Improvements in family economic self-sufficiency; and
- Improvements in the coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.

The passage of SB1139 will:

- *Create positive parent/child interaction, increasing healthy child development and preventing child abuse and neglect,*
- *Strengthen communities by encouraging parents to take leadership role in the community*
- *Empower parents to be their child's first teachers*

The inclusion of ALL home visiting outcomes will create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding.

I urge you to support the establishment of home visiting programs as detailed in SB1139.

Thank you for opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important bill.

Angela Lopes

HIPPY Coordinator

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters

Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1139: Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

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

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

Hearing: Friday, 2/8/13; 2:30 pm; CR 229

I am Trisha Kajimura of Catholic Charities Hawaii. Catholic Charities Hawaii supports SB 1139, 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. We also support the language amendments to this bill as proposed by the Department of Health.

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

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

Raising a family with limited resources, personal histories of trauma and/or other life challenges can be very difficult for parents. It can also put them at-risk for mistreatment of their children. We all know that preventing abuse before it happens is much more effective in stopping the cycle of abuse and dysfunction that will be perpetuated without intervention. Supporting parents to be nurturing and appropriate through this program will save the state the high cost of intervening in an abusive family. It will also help produce keiki who are happier, healthier, and facing more positive outcomes in development and learning.

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



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

February 8, 2013



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Testimony on SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Senate Committee on Health

Friday, February 8, 2013, 2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 229, State Capitol

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

Aloha, Chair Green and Vice Chair Baker and Committee members. I am Howard S. Garval, President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and most comprehensive 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 SB1139.

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 SB 1139.

I ask for your support of this bill to preserve home visitation programs to prevent child abuse for the highest risk families. The importance of a program like Healthy Start (Healthy Families America) is that we intervene before there is ever a report of child abuse to Child Welfare Services. For 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

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

February 7, 2013

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

RE: SB1139: 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



National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

February 6, 2013

TO: Senator Josh Green, Chair - Senate Committee on Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Senator Sam Slom

February 8, 2013 2:30 Conference Room 229

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

RE: SB 1139 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program - **SUPPORT**

Senator Josh Green Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, 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 SB 1139 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 SB 1139. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

February 8th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

From: *Georgina I*
Program Director
Kulia I Ka Nu`u
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a Home Visitor for 3 years with the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) Program and 6 years with Kulia I Ka Nu`u Home Visiting program, I write in support of SB1139, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. SB1139 is important to our communities, because I believe home visiting programs are important to the community due to our current social economic condition of families; where young parents are working outside of the home and grandparents are their child's primary caregiver and transportation can be an obstacle to getting out to programs. Not only do these programs support caregivers, and the health and safety of our children most in need of support and care, but I have also come to recognize the value in supporting primary caregivers as their child's first and best teacher. When it's done in the setting of the home where families are most comfortable and secured they are more open to learning new ideas to learning and teaching their children.

Home visiting programs have been approved for federal funding. Therefore, SB1139 will **allow the state to be eligible for much needed federal money** through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the positive parenting outcomes outlined in this bill, we have seen home visiting programs are also effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. Therefore, in order to **create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding**, I would ask the committee to consider language to included outcomes developed by the MIECHV funding, such as;

- Improvement in school readiness and achievement;
- Improvements in the coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.

The passage of SB1139 will:

- **Ensure an increase of positive parenting practices in low social economic communities, impacting the health of our children families**
- **Allow the state to receive much needed federal funding to address community health needs**
- **Additionally, the inclusion of ALL home visiting outcomes will create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding.**

I urge you to support the establishment of a home visiting program as detailed in SB1139.
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Georgina I

Program Director

Kulia I Ka Nu`u

Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health
Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

As a **concerned citizen, mother and social worker**, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. As a Family Support Worker, and while on Family Home Visit, last January 25, 2013, I was there with the father of a sick baby, helping him and supporting him with doctor's call, while the mother of the sick baby, was at work. I did not leave the home, until the father took baby in the doctor's clinic.

The following day, I received a phone call of a very grateful father, thanking me, for the help and support given to him and the baby on a much needed time and moment. Father informed me, that from the clinic, baby was taken by Paramedics to the Maui Memorial Hospital, and later on, was flown by Air Ambulance to Kapiolani Children's Hospital on that same very day.

As a Family Support Worker, I pride myself as one, and love to be there, when I was needed by this particular family.

Sincerely,

Florita Saribay
800 Kai Hele Ku St., Lahaina, HI 96761

Florita@mfss.org

(808) 242-0900 Ext. 404

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Arlene Tendo
2725 Iolani St.
Pukalani, HI 96768

February 8th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

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

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As Executive Director of a Native Hawaiian non-profit agency, I am writing in support of SB1139, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. Having provided home visiting programs since 1999, through the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters and the Parents As Teachers models, we have seen the improvement in families' lives that these programs can make. Not only is the parent/ child relationship dramatically changed, as the parent learns to anticipate developmental and social, emotional milestones, but the parent is empowered to choose appropriate responses. We have seen home visiting programs be especially effective with young parents, and parents experiencing numerous high risk factors.

We have witnessed, first-hand, investments in these programs:

- preventing incidents of child abuse and neglect,
- reducing numbers of emergency department visits and
- improving maternal and newborn health;

These investments result in saving the state costs associated with the poor health and safety conditions found in low income communities.

In addition to these outcomes, home visiting programs are incredibly effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. As there is a close correlation between educational achievement and improved health outcome, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in SB1139 that includes all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding. **This inclusion will bring the federal and state objectives into alignment.**

To ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk, I urge you to establish a home visiting program as detailed in SB1139.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1139.

Momi Akana
Executive Director
Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

February 7th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

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

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a Parents as Teachers Home Visitor for over 4 years, I write in support of SB1139, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and funds to the department of health to administer the program. SB1139 is important to our communities, because being able to help these parents build their parenting skills and understand their child's development at the different stages, and the importance of Nurturing, Guiding, Responding, Communicating, and Supporting Learning will ultimately Strengthen Families and Enhance the Child's Development.

These home visiting programs have been approved for federal funding. Therefore, SB1139 will **allow the state to be eligible for much needed federal money** through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, we have seen secure attachments, parents setting reasonable limits that help to make the child feel safe and secure better awareness with health, nutrition and safety, Improvement of child's overall development in all domains. Therefore, in order to **create alignment between state and legislation and funding**, I would ask the committee to consider using language in SB1139 that would include some of these outcomes, such as;

- *Improvement in school readiness and achievement;*
- *Prevention of child injuries, child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, and reduction of emergency department visits;*
- *Improved maternal and newborn health;*
- *Improved secure attachment between child and parent*
- *Improvement in knowledge of child development and expectations*
- *Improvements in the coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports*

The passage of SB1139 will:

- **Ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk,**
- **Allow the state to receive much needed federal funding to address the health needs of our families**

- Additionally, **the inclusion of ALL home visiting outcomes will create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding.**

I urge you to support the establishment of a home visiting program as detailed in SB1139.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Donnalei Gaison

Parents as Teachers Director

Keiki O Ka Aina Family Learning Centers

February 8th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

From: Erin Henderson
Parent Coach & Coordinator
Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up
Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

For over four years, I have worked both as a paraprofessional and a professional serving the families of Hawaii. I write in support of SB1139, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect, and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. SB1139 is important to our communities, because so many of our families are seeking community support. When I have the opportunity to work with families in the home, I found that many of the parents are looking for someone to ease the frustration, confusion, and isolation. Home visitors provide parents and caregivers the opportunity to connect with others, and most importantly, feel empowered to be a presence in their children's lives.

These home visiting programs have been approved for federal funding. Therefore, SB1139 will **allow the state to be eligible for much needed federal money** through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, we have seen children grow to have lower stress chemicals, better emotional regulation, and a more secure bond with their caregivers.

Therefore, in order to **create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding**, I would ask the committee to consider language to included outcomes developed by the MIECHV funding, such as;

- Prevention of child injuries, child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment;
- Improvement in school readiness and achievement.

The passage of SB1139 will:

- Provide support to families who are at-promise – those families who will thrive with continuous, coordinated care;
- Allow the state to assist in the preventative care for future generations;
- Additionally, **the inclusion of ALL home visiting outcomes will create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding.**

I urge you to support the establishment of a home visiting program as detailed in SB1139.
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



Erin Henderson
Parent Coach & Coordinator
Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-Up
Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

From: Barbara A Tanner, MS, APRN
Health Specialist at Maui Family Support Services
175 Ehilani Street
Makawao, Hawaii 96768
February 6, 2013

To: The Honorable Senator Dr. Josh Green, Chair
To: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice-Chair
Members of the Health Committee

Date: Friday, February 8, 2013
Time: 2:30 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Re: SB1139 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

I am testifying in support of SB1139. 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

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health
Health Chair, Senator Josh Green,
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139-Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30 p.m.

Dear Senate Members:

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

As a concerned citizen, mother, grandmother and a non-profit employee whose agency's mission is to prevent Child Abuse and Neglect, I have seen the positive impact of early intervention services for families raising young children. Evidence based programs such as Early Identification and Home Visiting allows the staff to be the eyes and ears for our most vulnerable population of newborns, infants and toddlers who are limited in advocating for their own well-being.

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

Sincerely,

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

February 8th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

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

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As a research professional with eight years of experience evaluating home visiting programs in Hawaii, I write in support of SB1139, which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program. SB1139 is critical as it seeks to **address the needs of children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, to promote healthy child development** and to **strengthen families** through evidence-based home visiting models.

As these models have been approved for federal funding, this legislation will **allow the state to receive much needed federal financing** through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, home visiting programs are also effective in improving in school readiness and achievement. In fact, the federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness and establishes this outcome as a reporting benchmark, due to the close link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes. Therefore, in order to **create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding**, I would ask the committee to incorporate language in SB1139 that outlines all outcomes and benchmarks developed by the MIECHV funding. These outcomes include:

- Improved maternal and newborn health;
- Prevention of child injuries, child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, and reduction of emergency department visits;
- Improvement in school readiness and achievement;
- Reduction in crime or domestic violence;
- Improvements in family economic self-sufficiency; and
- Improvements in the coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.

The passage of SB1139 will:

- **Ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children at-risk,**
- **Allow the state to receive much needed federal funding to address the health needs of our families**

- Additionally, **the inclusion of ALL home visiting outcomes will create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding.**

I ask that you to support the establishment of a home visiting program as detailed in SB1139.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

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

February 7, 2013

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

Re: SB 1139 Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Dear Senator Green, Baker 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 SB 1139.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Carol A. Plummer, MSW, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Research Affiliate, Consuelo Foundation

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cindy Jakubczak

cindy@mfss.org

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear Senate Members:

I support SB 1139, 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 SB 1139, 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

February 8, 2013

Senate Committee on Health
Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration,

Esther Byun

493 Pio Pl. #304
Wailuku, HI 96793

Hawaii Home Visiting Grant Start Program could be a pivotal service within the far-reaching communities of our state. This service in which parents and other primary caregivers receive information to help support their child(ren) physical, developmental, emotional, and psychological growth needs the collective support of my State Senators.

There have been in the past, and will continue to be in the future, increases in family eligibility for State Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services. The number of families projected to receive high end services from the Child Welfare Services can only increase as finances and the stressors of negative parental dynamics create a detrimental effect on the lives of our young citizens.

Support of SB 1139 and the Hawaii Home Visiting Program initiative will demonstrate your commitment to ensure the future of our State. Your investment in Hawaii's families and the children is an investment in sustaining thriving and growing communities on each island, across our State.

**Respectfully,
Glenna Okamura
Maui Resident
State of Hawaii**

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

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

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

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

Kaieka777@yahoo.com

808 298-9062

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

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

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support to Senate bill 1139 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

February 7, 2013

Senator Josh Green, Senate Health Committee Chair

Senator Roz Baker, Senate Health Committee Vice-Chair

Hearing on Senate Bill 1139 Friday, February 8th

Dear Chair Josh Green and members of Senate Health Committee,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Linda Coble

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Honorable Senator Josh Green, Chair, Senate Health Committee
Honorable Senator Rozalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair, Senate Health Committee
Other Honorable Committee Members

Friday, February 8, 2013
2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229

STRONG SUPPORT – SB1139 – RELATING TO THE HAWAI’I HOME VISITING PROGRAM

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

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 larger percent of the incarcerated people formerly foster children. Also around this time former PSD medical director Kim Thorburn, MD, 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 that most women too in prison were sexually abused.

As a health educator and restorative lawyer today helping people deal with the effects of crime and criminal behavior, I see the tragedy of how a lack of resources, substance abuse, crime, and prison harms children and families.

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

Please support this program to help at risk families find meaningful lives with the support of home visitors. It is a program that will easily benefit our community in the long run.

Please see my website www.lorennwalker.com for a description of my background including over 40 published papers and two books that I have authored about my work.

Thank you for your time and efforts serving the public.

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Malia K. Hosino
597 Kaumualii Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

February 5, 2013

**Senate Committee on Health
Health Chair, Senator Josh Green;
Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813**

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

I am writing to urge the state Legislature to support the bill relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting program and Early Identification program. As a former home visitor and current EID team member, I have seen how these programs have helped families in need. I have worked with mothers who were using drugs while they were pregnant and with the support of these programs, these moms have turned their lives around and have built a safe and nurturing environment for their children and families. Without these programs a lot of these families will have difficulty nurturing and caring for their children and families in a healthy way. The support that they provide has contributed to the positive growth of the children and the family as well. Home visits can impart positive benefits to families by way of influencing maternal parenting practices, the quality of the child's home environment, and children's development. Improved parenting skills, would likely be associated with improved child well-being and corresponding decreases in maltreatment over time.

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 intervention for the state in the future.

Sincerely,

Margarita Tirona

50 Halili Lane 5E, Kihei, HI 96753

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

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 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 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.
- Encouraging parents to know that they are their child's first teacher.
- Teaching parents how important it is to be involved with their child from the prenatal stage.
- Providing health nutrition and dental information.
- Providing transportation to dental and well- baby check up's when needed.

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.

Thank you,
Marsha Jones
1007 Alakai Street

Wailuku, Hi. 96793

Maugirl1978@yahoo.com

808-463-7028

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

My name is Raenelle Coloma and I have been working in the fields of both education and human services for the past 13 years. During this time, I have been able to observe and experience both personally and professionally how impactful and important the first 5 years of a child's life, particularly first 3 is and its effects these years have as a child grows.

As a direct staff member in a preventative program I have witnessed a mother, regain the parental rights of her 2 pre-teen children which she had previously lost while they were toddlers. It was through the support of a weekly home visiting program that this woman blossomed into a confident, healthy mother and person as a whole. She went from a world full of addiction and intimate partner violence and history of her own experiences of CAN growing up; to one where she was able to seek and receive support to help with her personal healing and grow an empowerment which broke her from years of the various degrees abuse which she was captive of.

This experience stood as strong affirmation for me, on just how impactful home visiting programs are to the families of our State. By working directly with families on stressors and other issues that could lead to possible CAN, we are in a win-win situation. The State would save millions on possible costs of removing children from their home, families particularly parents would receive support and education to address these stressors in a healthy manner but above all, less children of our State would be vulnerable to possible child abuse and neglect.

As a concerned member of my community, I urge you to please support SB 1139 and help us to continue investing in our families and young children now.

Respectfully,

Raenelle Coloma

P.O. Box 2172

Wailuku, HI 96793

February 5, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

Aloha,

As a parent and grandparent, I strongly urge you to support **SB1139**. It is crucial that parents in need be able to receive services that they may require in order to be the best possible parent in raising their child. Having the ability to receive information relating to early intervention services and information regarding available community resources at the time of their child's birth allows parents to be offered, based on their need/s to seek services that they may require. The Early Identification program provided by Maui Family Support Services allows this opportunity to new parents.

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

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

Please consider supporting the above Bill.

Sincerely,

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

February 8, 2013

The Honorable Josh Green, Chairman
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Health

Testimony regarding: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Aloha kākou:

I offer this testimony in support of SB1139. I am Rona Rodenhurst, an educator with over 40 years of experience including early learning and management of home visiting programs in Hawai'i, and I strongly support SB1139.

SB1139 establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the Department of Health to administer the program. SB1139 is important to our communities, especially to our Hawaiian families as it seeks to address children at risk for poor health and safety outcomes, including child abuse and neglect, promotion of healthy child development and to strengthen families through evidence-based home visiting models.

These home visiting programs have been approved for federal funding. Therefore, SB1139 will allow the state to be eligible for much needed federal money through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant program.

In addition to the outcomes outlined in this bill, home visiting programs support the improvement of school readiness and achievement. We have seen parents' satisfaction in learning and applying child development and parenting skills into their daily lives. These interest and skills encourages school readiness as well as promotes child wellbeing. The federal legislation establishing MIECHV requires quantifiable, measurable improvements in school readiness and establishes this outcome as a reporting benchmark, showing the link between educational achievement and improved health outcomes.

Therefore, in order to create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding, I would ask the committee to consider language to included outcomes developed by the MIECHV funding, such as;

- Improved maternal and newborn health;
- Prevention of child injuries, child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, and reduction of emergency department visits;
- Improvement in school readiness and achievement;
- Reduction in crime or domestic violence;
- Improvements in family economic self-sufficiency; and

- Improvements in the coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.

The passage of SB1139 will:

- Ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our children at-risk; our most vulnerable population,
- Allow the state to receive much needed federal funding to address the health needs of our families,
- Additionally, the inclusion of ALL home visiting outcomes will create alignment between state and federal legislation and funding.

I urge you to support the establishment of a home visiting program as detailed in SB1139.

Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1139.

‘O wau iho nō, (Sincerely)

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

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

Health Chair, Senator Josh Green; Health Vice Chair, Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

Dear House and Senate Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sara Valdez

1130 Hoomau Place

Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Svaldez808@hotmail.com

February 5, 2013

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Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Letter of Strong Support of SB 1139 – Relating to the Hawaii Home Visiting Program

Hearing: February 8, 2013 2:30PM

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.

I have witnessed firsthand the benefit of home visiting programs. I currently work with a fatherhood initiative to help fathers/male caregivers to realize the importance of their role as healthy involved fathers. As we accompany home visitors and collaborate with them to bring the best outcomes for the families we are able to see the in home situations that many of the families in Hawaii have and help address those needs. We have many families that currently would be in crisis situations if not for the preventative measures of the home visiting team.

These programs are vital to helping insure that the Hawaii's children and families have the best resources available to develop and become strong families. I as a concerned father want to emphasize once again the importance of your support of this legislation. Please don't short change this generation of all the available resources.

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,

Shannon J Carrier
260 Hoomaha St
Makawao, HI 96768

February 7, 2013

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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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1139 on Feb 8, 2013 14:30PM
Date: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 10:23:13 PM

SB1139

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for HTH on Feb 8, 2013 14:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe every child should have the same opportunities for early education. Please support this legislation for the future of our children. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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

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February 8th, 2013

To: Senator Josh Green, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Health

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

Re: SB1139 RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOME VISITING PROGRAM

Honorable Chairs & Committee Members:

As an Early Childhood Educator for over 35 years, and parent who benefited from past home visiting programs (Healthy Start, Head Start and Family Services), I know firsthand the value of such programs, therefore, I write in support of SB1139 which establishes a statewide hospital-based early identification and home visiting system and services to enhance health and safety outcomes, and prevent child abuse and neglect; and appropriates funds to the department of health to administer the program.

Speaking from the point of view of an educator, I know the SB1139 bill is critical in Hawaii's efforts to strengthen families, and protect children at risk. As a parent, I know the services our family and the children received through Home Visiting programs provided our family with much needed resources and support. As a former foster parent of children with vast needs and at great risk, home visiting positively impacted and improved their wellness and safety outcomes. SB1139, reinstating home visiting funding and services, would once again provide the opportunity for Hawaii to positively impact families and children at risk and/or affected by child abuse and neglect.

I would like to encourage the committee to support SB1139 to ensure the health, wellbeing and success of our most vulnerable population; our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB1139.

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

February 7, 2013

Senate Committee on Health

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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