

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on HB 1377, HD 1
RELATING TO CHILD HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 4, 2015 Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes a general fund appropriation to develop the
2 specifications and pricing for, as well as an implementation plan, for a web-based data system in
3 the Early Intervention Section (EIS) of the Department of Health (DOH). The bill also proposes
4 a general fund appropriation for operating expenses and to establish a coordinator position in the
5 DOH Children with Special Health Needs Branch to improve social-emotional and behavioral
6 outcomes for children birth to age 5 years.

7 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of the bill but defers to the
8 Governor's Executive Budget request and DOH appropriations and personnel priorities.

9 Early intervention database: EIS needs a web-based data system to improve efficiency
10 and streamline processes for documentation of services, state and federal reports, program
11 planning, quality improvement, and Medicaid and TRICARE billing. EIS provides early
12 intervention services for children age 0-3 years with developmental delays or at biological risk
13 for developmental delays, as mandated by the federal law Part C of the Individuals with
14 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The original data system was developed for New Mexico's
15 early intervention system in 2000, and modified by EIS in 2007 for Hawaii use. The current EIS
16 database is out-of-date by national standards, with a lack of a web-based data system. Other
17 statewide early intervention programs in 34 states have web-based data systems.

18 Social-emotional development: The social-emotional and behavioral health of young
19 children from birth to age 5 years are a crucial part of the foundation of children's learning and
20 health needed for success in school and later in life. Hawaii data from the National Survey of

1 Children's Health 2011/2012 show that 31% of Hawaii children age 4 months to 5 years are at
2 risk for developmental, behavioral, or social delays, and that the Hawaii rate is higher than the
3 nationwide average of 26%. Nationally, the estimated prevalence for behavioral/emotional
4 disorders in 2- to 5-year-old children is 11-20%.

5 Hawaii resources to address social-emotional and behavioral concerns for young children
6 have diminished over time. A coordinated and collaborative approach, based on evidence-based
7 effective practices, across agencies and programs is needed. A Coordinator position is needed
8 to: (a) facilitate development of a statewide system that supports positive social-emotional and
9 behavioral outcomes for young children; (b) provide training and technical assistance on
10 evidence-based effective practices; and (c) identify areas for improvement or policy changes.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify

12



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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March 4, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Luke and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 1377 HD1 - Health

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS THE INTENT OF HB 1377 HD1**. The bill makes an appropriation to develop the specifications and pricing for, as well as, an implementation plan, a web-based data system in the early intervention section of the Department of Health (DOH), and makes an appropriation for operating expenses and to establish one permanent coordinator position in the Children with Special Health Needs Branch of DOH to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children birth to age five years.

Based on the mandated responsibilities under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Sections 321-352, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to early intervention services for infants and toddlers with special needs, and the numerous State and purchase of services programs, it is imperative to have an updated data system that will contribute to the overall efficiency of the early intervention services program under DOH.

Equally important for an efficient service delivery system is the provision of quality services that is supported by ongoing training and consultation through a designated permanent full-time statewide coordinator position. The Council agrees with the justification for the need of a statewide coordinator as indicated on pages 5-6 to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children from birth to age five years.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **supporting the intent of HB 1377 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Waynette K.Y. Cabral, M.S.W.
Executive Administrator

Rosie Rowe
Chair

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:07 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: annie@projectvisionhawaii.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1377 on Mar 4, 2015 13:30PM*

HB1377

Submitted on: 3/3/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 4, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIZABETH A HILLER VALENTIN	PROJECT VISION HAWAII	Support	No

Comments:

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

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FIN-Jo

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Cc: anthony_orozco@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1377 on Mar 4, 2015 13:30PM*

HB1377

Submitted on: 3/2/2015

Testimony for FIN on Mar 4, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE

Easter Seals Hawaii

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March 3, 2015

To: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Ron Brandvold, President and CEO

Re: **Support for HB 1377/HD1 – Relating to Child Health**
Hearing Scheduled for March 4, 2015 (1:30 pm)

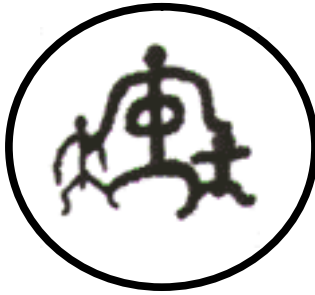
For over 60 years, Easter Seals Hawaii has provided exceptional, individualized, family-centered services to empower infants, children, youth and adults with disabilities or special needs to achieve their goals and live independent fulfilling lives. Easter Seals Hawaii is a statewide CARF accredited organization with 15 facilities from Waimea, Kauai to Hilo, Hawaii providing a variety of programs, including early intervention services from six locations on three islands (Oahu, Hawaii Island, Kauai).

Data System: Easter Seals Hawaii supports the language and intent of HB 1377/HD 1 to establish a web-based early intervention section data system to improve efficiency and quality of services. As one of the purchase-of-service programs providing early intervention services, Easter Seals would expect to utilize such a system. Funding to develop the specifications, pricing and the implementation plan for such a system is a wise investment to assure long term objectives are met.

Social-Emotional and Behavioral Development of Children: Easter Seals Hawaii also supports HB 1377/HD 1 language and intent to re-establish a focus on social-emotion and behavioral outcomes on children ages birth – five. A permanent coordinator position within the Department of Health, Children with Special Needs Branch is critical. With a focus on systems coordination, identification of needed policy change, training and consultation on best practices, promotion of early identification and general health of children across child care settings, this position could have a substantial and positive impact on effective interventions to address these issues early in a child's life. This too is a wise investment in a well-functioning early intervention system of services.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

LATE



HAWAI'I EARLY INTERVENTION
COORDINATING COUNCIL

1350 South King St. Suite 200 ☎ Honolulu Hawai'i 96814

Date: March 3, 2015

To: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Fr: Michael C. Fahey, Chair, Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council

Re: **SUPPORT** – HB-1377 – Relating to Child Health

On behalf of the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC), I submit this testimony in **support** of HB 1377 which is an appropriation to develop the specifications and pricing for, as well as an implementation plan, for a web-based data system in the Early Intervention Section of the Department of Health. HB 1377 makes an appropriation for operating expenses and to establish one permanent coordinator position in the Children with Special Health Needs Branch of the Department of Health to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for children birth to age five years.

The HEICC is the federally mandated advisory council in Hawaii for the services and programs defined in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As such, it is the Council's responsibility to advise support for this measure for the following reasons:

1. Due to the state's economic constraints, it is appropriate to explore a more effective and efficient system of data collection that could ultimately save the state money and streamline the record keeping and reporting process for early intervention providers.
2. The state has a responsibility to identify young children with disabilities from birth, and currently there is no coordinator to ensure that the successful characteristics of a thriving system are in place and operational to improve social-emotional and behavioral outcomes for our children birth to age five years.

For these reasons, the HEICC supports this measure. Thank you for your time and consideration.

