



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2016
Time: 08:30 AM
Location: 329
Committee: House Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1780 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the executive office on early learning to establish language developmental milestones for the purpose of developing a resource for use by parents of deaf and hearing-impaired children to track the children's language acquisition and developmental stages for children from birth to five years of age. Establishes criteria for the parent resource. Requires the executive office on early learning to select tools or assessments for educators to assess the language and literacy development of deaf and hearing-impaired children from birth to five years of age. Requires the superintendent to establish an advisory committee to solicit input from experts on the selection of language developmental milestones. Makes an appropriation for the establishment of language developmental milestones and the corresponding parent resource and educator tools and assessments.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the intent of HB 1780 to improve language and literacy development outcomes for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf blind children, offers comments, and requests an amendment to the language:

The proposed activities outlined in this bill are comprehensively addressed in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 60, and Board of Education Policy 900.5, Rights for Students Who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deaf Blind. The Department utilizes research-based normative assessments of language and literacy, based on the normal development of children, to monitor the progress of all students and to outline the goals and objectives in Individualized Education Plans for students with disabilities, including deaf and hard-of-hearing students. At Individualized Education Program meetings and assessment reviews,

teachers provide information including suggestions for parents to help improve their child's communication and language development through activities at home.

The Department otherwise defers to the EOEL-specific additions or amendments relative to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 302L.

Finally, in reference to Section 1, page 6, line 12, the department respectfully requests an amendment removing the Superintendent with the task of establishing an ad hoc advisory committee, as the the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is attached to the Superintendent's office for administrative purposes only.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

February 3, 2016

TO: Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

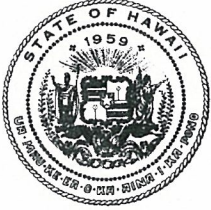
FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director

SUBJECT: HB 1780 – RELATING TO EDUCATION
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

Purpose of Bill: Requires the executive office on early learning to establish language developmental milestones for the purpose of developing a resource for use by parents of deaf and hearing-impaired children to track the children's language acquisition and developmental stages for children from birth to five years of age. Establishes criteria for the parent resource. Requires the executive office on early learning to select tools or assessments for educators to assess the language and literacy development of deaf and hearing impaired children from birth to five years of age. Requires the superintendent to establish an advisory committee to solicit input from experts on the selection of language developmental milestones. Makes an appropriation for the establishment of language developmental milestones and the corresponding parent resource and educator tools and assessments.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: While we support the intent of HB 1780 to improve language acquisition, development and literacy outcomes for deaf and hearing-impaired children, the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) does not support HB 1780 in its current form. The appropriate agencies to address these issues are the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (DOE), who have expertise and staff who currently address the needs of children who are deaf and who have hearing-impairments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

House Bill 1780 – Relating to Education

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports the intent of House Bill 1780 Relating to Education. This bill requires the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to establish language development milestones for the purpose of developing a resource for use by parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing; establishes criteria for the parent resource; requires the EOEL to select tools or assessments for educators to assess the language and literacy development of deaf and hearing impaired children from birth to five years of age; requires the superintendent to establish an advisory committee to solicit input from experts on the selection of language developmental milestones; and makes an appropriation for the establishment of language developmental milestones and the corresponding parent resource and educator tools and assessments.

Early language acquisition is a key component in a child's social and educational development. Most children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind do not develop language the same way hearing children do because most have hearing parents who don't know how to communicate with a child who doesn't hear. Therefore, it is imperative that the child who is deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind develops language, in some form, as soon as possible. This bill offers child without hearing a means to acquire language during the formative years from birth to age five.

DCAB staff reviewed the bill and suggest the following changes be made:

- Include a preamble which would adequately explain the need for these services;
- Change the phrase "hearing impaired" to "hard of hearing" throughout the bill;
- Add children who are both deaf and blind to the targeted group of children;
- Move the program to the Department of Health, Early Intervention Program that works with children from birth to age three;
- Transition the child to the Department of Education by allowing the Department of Health to collaborate in the early language acquisition of the child by ensuring what is in the Individual Family Service Plan is included in the child's Individualized Education Plan.

DCAB defers to the Departments of Health and Education regarding the appropriation necessary to establish this language acquisition program for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Respectfully submitted,


BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson
Legislative Committee


FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

February 2, 2016

Testimony by Billy Kekua, President
Aloha State Association of the Deaf
www.deafaloha.org

Support for H.B. 1780 Relating to Education
Language Developmental Milestones; Deaf; Hearing-Impaired; Early Learning; Appropriation

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Morikawa and committee members,

We, the Association, would like to commit and uphold our Mission Statement. Two of the objectives are significant to the Bill and we would like to share this with you:

- Advocating the educational and civil rights of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (DHHDB) citizens in the State of Hawai'i.
- Improving the quality and standard of living for all DHHDB people.

We must ensure and recognize that DHHDB children have the basic human rights as the hearing peers. The goals of the Bill are to encourage language learning experiences for all DHHDB aged 0-5, prevent the severe language deprivation, prepare them to be kindergarten-ready when they arrive at a school, and with the spirit of our nurturing to ensure that they become the world-class citizens when they graduate from high school.

We would like to remind ourselves that we are responsible to provide guidance, healthy environment, and stability for our DHHDB children. With your assistance to pass the Bill, our quality of living will be definitely improved to the sky.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our testimony with you.

Malama pono.

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. On behalf of the School Community Council of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

The members of the SCC work closely with the the administration and staff of HSDB in order to support the vision and mission of the school. One of the most important cornerstones of our school's philosophy is communication, and access to language. Our students communicate through the use of American Sign Language and written English, and their access to language and communication on campus is of the utmost importance. What we cannot control, is the language/communication environment of their homes, and the access to language that they are provided before they become school age.

HB 1780 would require the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction in their home, and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:38 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: nomit002@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taichi Nomi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1780. The development of language developmental milestones is critical to ensuring Deaf and hard-of- hearing children have the tools they need to be successful upon entering kindergarten. With 90% of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children born to hearing parents, the development of a parent resource guide is crucial to making sure that parents have all the information they need to begin tracking the language development of their child.

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February 1, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawai`i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Aloha Representative Morikawa,

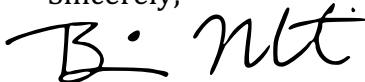
As you know, the House Bill 1780 passed its first reading on the House of Representatives floor. I, Brian Nakamoto of Pearl City, urge you to lend your support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

In a nutshell, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development and acquisition of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individual Education Plan (IEP) available. I support the HB 1780 because, in its current situation, there is a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of zero and five have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten level with inadequate or delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve their growth academically, socially, and emotionally. Now, it is time to obliterate this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not being addressed by various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right for each and every of our DHHDB infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to a language acquisition and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support the HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language acquisition and development to all of our DHHDB children in the State of Hawai`i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Nakamoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a stylized "Nakamoto".

Brian Nakamoto
98-142 Kaluamoi Place
Pearl City, HI 96782

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. As a resident of Hawaii, I, Carie Sarver of Kaimuki urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language and English during each Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind (DHHDB) child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten.

I support this bill because I have seen the effects of language delays and deprivation on DHHDB children and I want all kids in our state to start Kindergarten on even ground.

In my 18 years as a Sign Language interpreter I've worked with the DHHDB community in settings such as medical, legal, business, social, and educational. I've seen students from Pre-K through high school in two states in mainstream and residential programs enter the classroom unable to share their own names, the names of their families or caretakers and unable to express their wants and needs.

This delay in language acquisition follows them through their school years and into adult life as I've seen in doctor's offices, social security lines, social services meetings, and so on. I've seen DHHDB consumers struggle to read their mail, communicate with close family members, even to make a simple medical appointment. Currently, in Hawaii only 14% of DHHDB students read proficiently compared to 74% of their non-deaf peers. It is time to close that gap. It's time to provide our DHHDB children with the tools they need to prepare for their academic years and give them a fair shot at life.

As an ally to the DHHDB community and as an interpreter I want to see more of our adult citizens in board rooms, college classrooms, and professional venues than in court rooms, unemployment lines or other social services offices. I am hopeful that the work that HB1780 will do on behalf our children will help to lead them there.

Sincerely,



Carie Sarver

February 4, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

My name is Darlene Ewan. I am writing this testimony in support of HB1780. My first language is American Sign Language (ASL). My family is Deaf and uses ASL. I am fortunate to have started my language development at birth.

When growing up in a school where children often felt envious of me because my parents uses sign language, I always asked myself why their parents didn't learn sign language. I finally understood why their parents did not learn sign language. It all started at birth. The system has been misinforming the parents.

A lot of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children believe they will become hearing person at later age because they lack role models that use sign language. As an advocate for the deaf, I have been asked to support families through Individual Family Service Plans and Individual Education Plans.

When I provided them support, I was informed by families that the Early Intervention teachers expressed their concern about my "misinforming" the families about American Sign Language and English. This has left many families confused when there is no evidence of language development for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and deafblind children.

I have sacrificed one thousand hours of personal leave from work in last 20 years to support the families that struggled with the pressure of going through the system that does not allow them to choose American Sign Language as the preferred language at home and at school.

With this bill, families will have assurance of language development for their child through American Sign Language and English. I ask that you pass this bill with no reservations.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Darlene Ewan
Honolulu, Hawaii

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 10:31 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: edchevy59@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ed Chevy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 4, 2016 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES SUPPORT HB 1780 This testimony is in support of the HB1780 to recognize early language development for the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind children. My son, Clyde Corey, age 12, who is deaf, received academic success and social development at home because there were no resources at the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education that supported active-parent participation. Clyde acquired FIRST language from day one. We gave him our time and energy to assure that he has the progressive structure in learning the language. Clyde is one fine sample to prove to the Dept of Health and the Dept of Education that he has full access to language. Please support hb 1780 and let early language development be the core for all the deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind children. Respectfully submitted, Ed Chevy Deaf advocatee

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:22 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: murrayj007@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Murray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1780. The development of language developmental milestones is critical to ensuring Deaf and hard-of- hearing children have the tools they need to be successful upon entering kindergarten. With 90% of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children born to hearing parents, the development of a parent resource guide is crucial to making sure that parents have all the information they need to begin tracking the language development of their child.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 5:48 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: j9_murray@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janine Murray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1780. The development of language developmental milestones is critical to ensuring Deaf and hard-of- hearing children have the tools they need to be successful upon entering kindergarten. With 90% of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children born to hearing parents, the development of a parent resource guide is crucial to making sure that parents have all the information they need to begin tracking the language development of their child.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:26 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Cc: halimun@Aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristin Di Perri	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: It is my sincere pleasure to provide the strongest support I can for this bill. As a Deaf educator for over 30 years, it has been frustrating to see the continual lack of educational growth of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) children. From my first year teaching in 1983 to my current consulting work at Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs across the US, one thing remains stagnant- the starting gate is barred. Tragically, rather than considering an option that is biologically, fully accessible- using American Sign Language (ASL), we continue to repackage old, largely unsuccessful approaches to "fixing" ears as the blanket approach to language development. Our DHH children continue to suffer as each new generation is held to an educational standard that naturally relies on a firmly established language base. In 2016, we continue to see DHH seniors graduating with literacy skills equivalent to a 9 year old hearing child. The time for this to stop is long past due. We have the answer. Deaf adults have known it all along. Language that orients at the greatest access point- the eyes- has the greatest potential for comprehension....especially at the outset of life when everything is new. Once language is established education is available and attainable. Without a comprehensible initial language everything suffers. This is the actual 'handicap'- to willfully impede a child's linguistic development when we have evidence for success from Deaf children of Deaf adults is to indeed "handicap" the otherwise cognitively intact child. The vast majority of DHH children are born to hearing parents (90-95%). Myriad questions naturally arise and parents have to fend their way through a system that is completely unfamiliar to them. Parents need clear guidance in understanding how their infant will process language when one sense is impeded. Unfortunately, for most parents, the information given can be one sided rather than proposing a plan that offers access from Day 1 of birth. With newborn hearing screening in effect, parents are able to learn much earlier if their child has a hearing loss. Though this information is helpful, the concomitant advice to parents is generally focused on developing the child's auditory and vocal processing to hopefully instantiate language abilities. However, as a beginning, this is the weakest avenue for accessing language. One hundred percent access is available for developing language and it exists through the sense of sight and movement. ASL, a language structured on the properties of vision and spatial features, is accessible from DAY 1. We have failed our nations DHH children again and again by expecting them to learn in a system they have not been linguistically prepared for. This Bill aims to establish language developmental milestones for Deaf children and would set aside appropriations in order to do so. I implore you to change the course of history by supporting this bill and allow DHH children to obtain language access- a fundamental human right- from the start. Their future depends on it.

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kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:38 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: krispagano@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristine Pagano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Born deaf and raised in Hawaii, I strongly urge the House Committee on Human Services to support this bill because I personally experienced language development delay and was not kindergarten ready at our local public school. Struggling in our public school is not what I would want for our future generations to continue because no child should be left behind and this bill enhances and supports our responsibility to provide additional educational support to ensure academic success. With your support for this bill, the Committee is empowering, and support equal and language access for our deaf children to succeed along with their Hearing peers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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February 2nd, 2016

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Representative Morikawa:

My name is Kurstin Chun. I am currently an Educational Interpreter for the Hawaii Department of Education and a Sign Language Instructor at a local college. I understand that HB 1780 passed it's first reading on the House floor and I am sending my testimony in hopes that this bill will become a reality for Hawaii.

I recently completed my MA degree in Sign Language Education and learned about the importance of early language acquisition. Research shows that the critical time for language acquisition is between the ages of 0-2. Hearing babies can often reproduce the language cadence, meaning that their babble might sound like they are actually saying something when they are in reality just mimicing natural language sounds. This cadence that they learn helps them develop actual language and an understanding of how to use words later on in life. Unfortunately this is missed with most deaf and hard-of-hearing children born to hearing families. Statistically, more deaf babies are born to hearing families than to a deaf family, thus a hearing parent will have no idea about deafness and the culture associated with being deaf. As parents are trying to figure things out for themselves (taking months to years), their deaf baby misses the short window in developing normal language skills and being exposed to natural language usage. HB 1780 will help parents make better and earlier decisions about language usage and development as well as monitor the progress of deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deafblind children to ensure they are developing natural language skills.

In my personal experience, as a Educational Interpreter for Hawaii, I have seen many deaf and hard-of-hearing students that are only behind because of their linguistic needs. Many of them are just deaf or hard-of-hearing with no mental or physical disability, but because they did not have a chance to develop a strong primary language, they are put into special education classes. To quote a leader within the Deaf community, I. King Jordan, "Deaf can do anything a hearing person can except hear."

I plead with you to make this bill a reality. Whether intentionally or not, deaf children are being held back from succeeding in life. The State of Hawaii has an opportunity to help our deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind youth right now.

Sincerely,

Kurstin Chun

February 2, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. As a resident of Hawaii, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Larry Littleton
4230 Ono St.
Lihue, HI. 96766

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:18 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: musicmind75@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Safranski	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support HB1780 to help our Deaf and Hard of Hearing keiki reach their full potential in life..

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February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Mala Arkin of Honolulu, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Mala Arkin
PO Box 11988
Honolulu HI 96828

My name is Nikki Kepo'o and I am a hearing mother of a deaf child. I am speaking based on my personal experience and my FULL support of HB1780.

March 12, 2012 we welcomed our 2nd child, a boy we named Caleb La'aikēakua. A few months later, we were informed that our son was severe to profoundly deaf.

Since my husband and I never had any personal interaction with a deaf individual, we were immediately overwhelmed. There were different emotions NONE of regret, but more of uncertainty. We didn't know where to turn to, how to "speak" with him, anything that we would have normally known with a hearing child. Our audiologist provided a few service information and we were connected to an Early Intervention Specialist who connected us with other hearing families with deaf/hh children and some deaf mentors. Unfortunately, many of the hearing families had no idea what to do or expect. So now we are in a sea of uncertainty, all of us trying to figure out what was the best for our child with little to no resources.

The information provided was very one sided and gave no clear input of raising a deaf child. Although I had the sweetest and well-intended early intervention support, my son was their FIRST deaf child. "WE" had no deaf milestones for him. Regardless of their attempts, they were unable to tell me how to communicate effectively with my son. They couldn't identify key signals a deaf child makes to show progress in their language and development. They too, were learning from my son and I as we were going along. Most of the professionals were driving us towards implants. Not giving us any support on raising him as he is, but rather trying to convince us that we needed to change him. I refused to believe he needed to be changed to develop properly, first and foremost my son IS DEAF. He is and will always be DEAF. No device, no intervention, and no view will change this. \

One of the most profound experiences came from his ENT Dr after we decided against implanting him. "I will tell you this, before 2-3 years later you will return and say you regretted your decision. Your son will NEVER be successful. He will be able to attend college but he will have a mind of a high schooler. He will see your daughter become anything she wants, and he won't because he will never learn to hear and speak. He will resent you."

NO, this is 100% FALSE. My son and every deaf child in Hawaii WILL have every opportunity to be successful because WE as their parents, and YOU as their leader, will be certain to raise them with the right milestones, the right guidance, and the right mindset. My son has already exceeded many expectations and he hasn't even turned 4. By exposing him and doing as much as we can with the language he can do his alphabets front to back. He can count to 100 on his own. He can take a sea of letters or alphabets and correctly format them. He can write. He knows how to sign nearly 40 words. He communicates effectively with others. Therefore, when my son becomes whatever he wants to become I will send his accomplishments to this doctor so she can be reminded that she made the wrong statement to the wrong mother.

It is my responsibility as his parent to fight for his right to learn to the best of his abilities and it is your elected responsibility in doing right by our families. It is time for a change, a positive and AMAZING change that will only benefit the success of our family units and our State.

February 2, 2016

HB1780 Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

I am writing today to express my support of House Bill 1780. As a resident of Hawaii and service provider to the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing population of our islands, I believe that this measure is integral to the success of future generations of deaf children.

This measure would require that the state's Department of Health assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support this measure because the current method of assessment and treatment afforded to deaf children and their families is insufficient to address the multitude of linguistic and developmental issues that these children face. Over 90% of deaf children are born into hearing families with no knowledge of sign language or experience of Deaf culture. Thus, the deaf child is often not exposed to their natural language until after the critical period of language development, between the ages of 0 to 5, has passed. This is an egregious failing on behalf of these children, making it increasingly difficult to them to achieve the levels of academic success enjoyed by their hearing peers. Additionally, as a result of language access delays, children experience delays in social and emotional development that plague them throughout their lives.

It is time to correct this systemic failing with accountability. HB1780 enforces language benchmarks in ASL and in English during each of the deaf child's first five years to ensure that they will be on-track to enter kindergarten at a developmental and language level commensurate with their hearing peers. I support this bill because all children have the right to equal access to language and to academic success. Deaf children have equal capacity for success as their hearing peers, but have historically been robbed of the chance to maximize their potential because they and their families have not had access to comprehensive early language intervention that would encourage growth during their critical period of development. The plans proposed by HB1780 would correct this by offering increased support and education to families with deaf children.

In my ten-plus years of experience working with the DHHDB population of Hawaii, first as an educator of deaf children and then as a professional sign language interpreter, I have seen the life-long ramifications that language isolation in one's formative years can cause. Research has proven time and time again that early exposure to sign language for deaf children is absolutely paramount to their cognitive development and future success. The methodology that is currently in place to service these children and their families is woefully inadequate. We must do more. It is for these reasons that I ask you to lend your support to HB1780 and to vote in favor of it.

Sincerely,

Sarah Comerford
HQAS IV, EIPA 3.4, NIC Candidate

This testimony is being respectfully submitted regarding SB1780. As a Teacher of the Deaf with 37 years of experience in both New York City (9 years) and Hawaii (28 years). I strongly recommend that that State of Hawaii demonstrate leadership when it comes to language development in children with hearing loss, regardless if they are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Language is what makes us feel human, like we are worthy of attention, that our opinions matter. I took an IQ test when I was 17 and one of the questions on the test was "Why can't the deaf speak?" Even the psychologist evaluating me was telling me she would be very interested to hear my answer. With my limited life experience, my answer was "Because the Speech Therapists don't know how to teach it to the Deaf!" For me, that was the truth at the time, based on my experience with Speech Therapists. I found out later that they actually do not train to work with Deaf children. The answer must be because Deaf children cannot hear, which is the right answer on the IQ test.

My answer now would be different, "...because they don't have a language." I grew up a "successful" oral adult who could speak well, lipread and use my hearing aid to understand others, mostly in one to one, close up, quiet settings. My English Reading and Writing skills are excellent, but that is not what I'm most proud of. I'm most proud of my ability to communicate using American Sign Language (ASL). When I decided I wanted to learn to use ASL at the age of 21, I still had no self identity as a Deaf person. It wasn't until I decided to immerse myself with the Deaf Community that I came full circle to understanding who I am as a Deaf person.

When I started to learn ASL, I was warned not to learn it because I would forget how to speak and write in English. That still hasn't happened yet after 42 years. Once a language is established, it stays with me – forever. Now I can say ASL is the second language I have established forever, because it is a big part of who I am as a human being who happens to be Deaf. There would be no greater shame than not exposing an infant with hearing loss to ASL as the primary, foundation language upon which everything could be built upon. My greatest disappointment over my 37 years of experience of teaching the Deaf is with the parents of children with hearing loss, 95% or more who are hearing, who do not learn ASL. How will the children feel loved, appreciated for who they are and emotionally supported so that they can be successful in life? Please look into the research on language development in children with hearing loss and I guarantee you'll find that the most natural language they can use is American Sign Language. Thanks for lending me your eyes.

Respectfully,

Stephen G. Laracuente

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 6:51 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: zaricke.jackson@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zaricke Jackson	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I support this bill because it is critical that ALL children have appropriate language development. If hearing children have appropriations for language development programs, then so should deaf and hard of hearing children.

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 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Kerryn Sagucio of Ewa urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Kerryn Sagucio
91-1279 Puamaeole St.
Ewa, Hawaii 96706

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:30 A.M. Conference Room
329**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1780 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Aloha from Kentucky!

Chair Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi, Members of Human Services, and Friends,

My name is Francine Mae Kenyon from Stanford, KY. You know, I miss advocating down in Hawaii but will continue advocating for deaf rights up there in Kentucky next year.

I strongly support the House Bill No. 1780, requiring the executive office on early learning to establish language developmental milestones for the purpose of developing a resource for use by parents of deaf and hard of hearing children to track the children's language acquisition and developmental states for children from birth to five years of age, because of my experience of reading the book at the age of 4. I appreciated my parents' early training that did help me develop language and literacy excellently. I remembered my dad teaching me trigonometry at the age of 7 and helped him survey the area in the basement of my home. He even took me to his office at the Hawaii Dept. of Transportation at the age of 9. Not only my parents but also my teacher, Mrs. Kurata and Mrs. Lacy, had been instrumental in teaching me early in language and writing after school. In the same way, I followed my parents' footsteps by teaching my two sons in American Sign Language at the early age of infancy, resulting in an amazing intellectual development.

I STRONGLY BELIEVE that early learning would be an excellent accomplishment for deaf and hard of hearing children aged zero to 5 so they can successfully acquire a language acquisition and development stages!

I strongly urge you to pass HB 1780 without any questions.

Respectfully,

Francine Mae Lehuanani Kenyon 374 Tanner Circle Stanford, KY 40484

[\(808\)375-9007](tel:8083759007) Text kuliangel569@gmail.com

February 4, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:


My name is Arwin Sacalamitao and I'm a senior at Hawaii School for the Deaf. I am the President of Student Body Government. I grew up attending HSDB. I'm really strong support on HB1780 which is about the Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K).

I am writing on behalf of this bill because my family were trying to find a deaf school in Philippines. It was not possible. Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind was the only option my family had. We moved to Hawaii so I could receive proper education. I have never attended to any public school. I remember about when I was in 6th or 7th grade, I wanted to attend to public school because there's are hearing students and learn about their culture. I never got around to do it. When I was in High School and I finally understand there is a reason for that.

When I interact with my peers. I realize I am the fortunate one. I was placed in the right school. I started to use American Sign Language at the earliest age. I really want my peers who arrived Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind at late age be at the same level as I am. I am a role model to many students who arrived HSDB at late age with no language.

And I really want them to be able to function by being part of the society. American Sign Language is always very important to students from birth to 22 years old.

Thank you so much for listen to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Arwin Sacalamitao
Honolulu, Hawaii

February 4, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

My name is Brooke Christophersen-Urayanza and I'm born and raised in Maui, I'm junior at Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind.

I am writing on behalf of this bill because I was placed in mainstreaming at pre-school for short time. Deaf Education Teacher, Beth King, noticed that I play alone at playground and she ask my hearing teacher if I'm Deaf or not. My hearing teacher say I can understand her but when she speak to me, I couldn't understand her but I followed her eye and pick crayons. Beth is not happy with that, she asked my teacher if she would talk to my mother. Beth talked to my mother that she think I am Deaf but my mother did take me to doctor before and told my mother that I am mental disability and also my mother take me to audiologist and proved that I'm hearing. Beth proved my mother is wrong by Beth suggest her to take me to audiologist while I'm sleeping and proved that I'm deaf but my mother still concern me as mental disability. Beth suggest if my mother is okay that I transfer to her class, my mother agreed and bring me to Beth's classroom at first day. I learned ASL when I was 4 years old, Beth teaching me how to write and read through by ASL. Then I transferred to HSDB at sophomore year, I learning new signs and easily commutation to teachers, students, and staffs.

I'm thanking for people who supporting me by who I am. I am grateful that I attended HSDB if it wasn't for Beth, I will probably have hard time to commutation with my family and less social life.

Sincerely,



Brooke Christophersen-Urayanza
Kahului, Maui

February 4, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

My name is Fritz Ann Marie Dar Divina and I'm hard-of-hearing. I am Vice-President for Student Body Government and currently junior at Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind. I'm giving my strong support for HB 1780 on LEAD-K (Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids). On 2009, I moved to Maui, Hawaii. My parents sent me at Kahului Elementary School when I was 9 or 10 year old. It didn't work out well for me because I only could speak filipino language and didn't sign at all. I had a deaf teacher and his name is Sung. He stood up for me. I was placed to Pomaikai Elementary. I did not learn how to use American Sign Language until I became a student there. I was learning quickly in that program. In 2010, I was transferred to Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind. I became successful student. HSDB have gave me a lot of opportunities to to do with my life and other things. Currently I am very happy that I am here at the school and it is really have improved my knowledge and abilities.

There are a lot of reasons to pass on this bill for the deaf community and include deaf kids too. It is not about the budget. It is for the deaf kids. If they are really learning quickly for their age I believe that all of the deaf kids are smart if they start using sign language at early-age. I don't want to Deaf children to suffer for learning the language at late age. It is not their fault. The system failed them. That's why, it is hard to do things with them if they aren't learning any language. I do believe that the deaf kids could be more knowledgable about their culture. If they are learning It is amazing when we see children with strong sign language skills. They are actually learning. I want future deaf children to be able to find good jobs. They will be struggles with their life that if they never have any language.

Thank you for your time for listen to my testimony. I really want to pass this bill. I hope that this bill will be change for the deaf kids through sign language. The deaf kids have the right to their education.

Sincerely,
Fritz Ann Marie Dar Divina
Kahului, Maui

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fritz Ann Marie Dar Divina". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

February 4, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

My name is Mariah Dawn Ralar Punzalan and I'm Junior at Hawaii School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB). I'm currently part of Deaf Academic Bowl player for our school. I was born in Kahului, Maui. I am a former student at Wailuku Elementary School for 3 years. I transfer red to another school. I attended Pomaikai Elementary School for 3 years. I have experienced Total Communication and Bilingual Education setting in a classroom. The most accessible education I received was through bilngual education using ASL and English.

I am writing on behalf of this bill. I'm in a very strong support to have Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) passed because I have settle for my goal to having LEAD-K with deaf students in our State mostly at HSDB. I want my future generation deaf kids to be a quick learner. They should have a good language foundation for daily use. Mostly to live a good life. I would really love to see for their deaf child(ren) include myself as being daughter of my parents to be a successful citizen of Hawaii. It would be very wise if you pass LEAD-K.

I started to learn ASL at young age. I am grrateful to be able to know English through ASL as the language of instruction. I really want this bill to pass. I want the future generation of Deaf to be part of my accomplishments that I have and will leave for college.

Sincerely,



Mariah Dawn Ralar Punzalan
Kahului, Maui

February 4, 2016

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

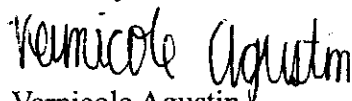
Dear Representative Morikawa:

My name is Vernicole Agustin and I'm hard-of hearing student at Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind. I am a freshman. I was born in Philippines and I moved here when I was 8 year old.

When I was in 6th grade, I learned ASL for the first time. I have never see ASL before. I was a student at Stevenson Middle School. When I transferred to HSDB, my education became more challenged. When I mean by challenge- I am actually learning about things that I did not learn growing up. I was able to learn about content that I am learning through ASL. I support Language Equality and Acquisition Deaf Kids because it is good to learn ASL at early age.

I support Language Equality and Acquisition Deaf Kids because we need it. I hope you area supporting this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Vernicole Agustin
Honolulu, Hawaii

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii state Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. As a resident of Hawaii, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

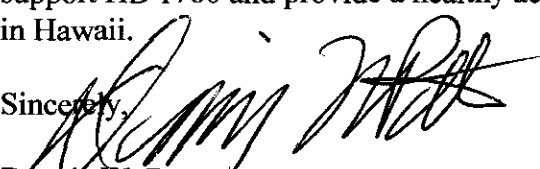
Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, heard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HP 1780 enforces language benchmarks in ASL and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure that they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. I support this bill because I want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professional working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Dennis W. Potts

841 Bishop Street, Suite 1628
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 3, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawai`i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Branden Tsuji-Jones of Honolulu, Hawai`i, ask that you please support and vote for HB 1780.

The bill requires our state's Department of Health to assess, monitor and track the language development of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because as of recently, a significant proportion of Deaf children up to the age of five have minimal to no language instruction and are enrolled in kindergarten with inadequate or delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and experience social and emotional growth. As my mother is Deaf herself, I, as a KODA, or Kid Of a Deaf Adult, have met countless members of the Deaf community. After encountering numerous people who have shared their stories about being denied full access to their own language, it is clear to me that now is the time to hold everyone accountable for the language acquisition and development of DHHDB children.

Delays caused by language deprivation are common, yet are not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB newborns and toddlers have full access to acquiring experience and language at the same rate as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development for all DHHDB children in Hawai`i.

Sincerely,

Branden Tsuji-Jones

brandentsuji@gmail.com

February 3, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa Chair,
House Committee on Human Services Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Michiko Corey of Ewa Beach/Hawaii, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Calvin Corey
91-213 Hanapouli Circle, 37B
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 6:53 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: macie69.mc@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clyde Corey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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February 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, David Hunter of Honolulu, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

David Hunter
3253 Pahoia Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii 98616

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 6:56 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: echiwa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen Chiwa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant number of deaf children between the ages of 0 to 5 with minimal to no language instruction reach kindergarten with inadequate & delayed language development. Because of this, it would be very difficult for them to achieve academic success as well as social and emotional growth. It is time to put an end to this tragic statewide epidemic. Every deaf child should be entitled to language acquisition. We must make sure that all deaf babies and toddlers have full access to language acquisition, which is a basic human right, and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all deaf children in Hawaii. Thank you for your attention to this testimony.

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 2, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawai`i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Ami Tsuji-Jones of Honolulu, Hawai`i, ask you to please support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. I have seen this over and over not only here in Hawai`i, but also, on the mainland. I have worked with DHHDB kids in various settings such as Hawai`i School for the Deaf and the Blind, Kendall Demonstration Elementary School (in Washington D.C.). You would notice that DHHDB kids who have Deaf parents often arrive at kindergarten with language already. So that specific group would thrive and be able to excel in school, have confidence, and have successful future. There are many researches that have proved that when DHHDB kids are exposed to language from day one do very well in school. It is time and crucial to hold everyone accountable for DHHDB's language acquisition and development

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Ami Tsuji-Jones

seeourhands@gmail.com

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, *[First/Last Name]* of *[City/County Where You Live]*, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely, Devyn Kauhi 55-522 Iosepa St Laie HI, 96762

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Emily Jo Noschese of Honolulu, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

HB 1780 will require the state's Department of Health to do something of utmost importance: Assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

I support HB 1780 because I have worked with younger deaf and hard of hearing children as an American Sign Language Specialist. I have witnessed firsthand how children with severe language delays are adversely affected in their everyday lives. I have an M.A. in Linguistics, and as a linguist, I cannot stress enough the importance of DHHDB children — or any child for that matter — having a strong foundation of first language by the time they are of Kindergarten age.

I support HB 1780 also because of misguided and misinformed principles and policy. This has contributed to Deaf and Hard of Hearing children frequently arriving at Kindergarten without adequate language skills to undertake academic challenges. There is rarely mention of language development, which is essential for successful social, emotional, and educational development. Language involves more than just communication. With language, individuals develop cognition and all associated neurological functions. Without language skills, DHHDB children will have academic and life struggles for the rest of their lives.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

Sincerely,

Emily Jo Noschese
717 Hausten St #303
Honolulu HI 96826

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. As a resident of Hawaii, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Leon Bolivar

Pearl City, Hawaii

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Marisa Bolivar of Pearl City, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

I have been working in the field of Deaf Education for ten years, and in that time I have seen Deaf students entering school without the basic foundation of language necessary to communicate their own wants and needs, let alone compete academically with their hearing counterparts. Communication and access to language is a basic human right, and one that has been overlooked for far too long. The most critical period for language development begins in the womb, and closes at age six. If the window for language learning closes, research has shown there are long lasting and irreversible consequences that are almost impossible for children to overcome. HB 1780 proposes a solution to this longstanding and overlooked problem.

HB 1780 would require the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction in their home, and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families.

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1780

Thursday, February 4, 2016

To: Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Scott O'Neal, LCSW
PO Box 17301
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Representative Morikawa:

I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote affirmatively for it. Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

I support HB 1780 because of my personal experience with this community. I have been working with DHHDB children and adults as a social worker and a therapist since 1998. In that time I have seen first-hand the devastating effects lack of early language can have on a child's development, and the eventual damaged adult that child will become. And, honestly, there is absolutely no reason for this to happen.

- Would you sanction a home where a hearing child is forced to wear ear plugs and have no one talk to them for 5 years?
- Would you sanction a school or early intervention program where children are placed around other children and teachers who don't speak the same language, where they can't learn to speak the same language, will never be able to speak the same language, and so are completely unable to communicate with each other?
- Would you accept a Hawaii school system where every child that graduates is lucky if they can read at a 3rd grade level?
- What would Hawaii look like if 80% of all the adults were unable to read or write effectively in English, unable to communicate with people around them, unable to hold a job and make a competitive wage?

That is exactly how it is for Hawai'i's Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind. And yes, you do sanction that. My question is, how long will you continue to do so?

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language, and lifetime, development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Scott O'Neal

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Stephanie Sotoof Pearl City urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Soto

1365 Kaumahana pl. Pearl city HI 96782

February 2, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Gail Odagiri of Aiea, Hawaii request your support of HB 1780 and to vote in favor of it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind (DHHDB) children whether it be American Sign Language (ASL) or English with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because as an educational interpreter with the State of Hawaii, Department of Education, I have seen many deaf children entering primary and secondary schools with significant gaps in language. They often do not have a strong foundation in a primary language.

Many DHHDB children are missing the critical period for language acquisition which is between the ages of 0 - 5. Too many deaf and hard-of-hearing students enter high school as freshmen with a reading level of a primary school student, (between the 2nd and 4th grades). It is not uncommon for them to be isolated from family when it comes to communication. They are often socially and emotionally delayed in comparison to their hearing peers. On the other hand, Deaf children of Deaf parents who use ASL tend to be more successful academically since their primary language is often well-developed. They are exposed to language from day 1. They are more social and self-confident in their Deaf identity.

Language acquisition is a basic human right. Many DHHDB children are denied this. Please stop this travesty from perpetuating itself year after year. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. At minimum, one year's progress/growth in one year's time. We need to step up and be accountable to our DHHDB keiki. Please support HB 1780.

Sincerely,

Gail Odagiri
99-771 Nahiolea St.
Aiea, HI 96701

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 6:46 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: murray_margie@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Murray	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept this testimony in strong support of HB1780. The development of language developmental milestones is critical to ensuring Deaf and hard-of-hearing children have the tools they need to be successful upon entering kindergarten. With 90% of Deaf and hard-of-hearing children born to hearing parents, the development of a parent resource guide is crucial to making sure that parents have all the information they need to begin tracking the language development of their child.

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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Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:29 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: heather.interpreter@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather Benjamin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I, Heather Benjamin, support this bill HB1780, LEAD K. For the past 15 years I have been a professional sign language interpreter and in my experience in working as an interpreter in the Deaf community I have found one thing, above all else, to be true and that is that Deaf children suffer from language deprivation. Most of my time is spent interpreting for Deaf adults in jobs that do not require a lot of language fluency, such as custodial work, food prep, and other hands-on, blue-collar, type of work. I know that they are way more capable of working in higher level jobs than this and the barrier they face is language fluency. I know this can be solved if there were simply more accountability within the education system to ensure that these children do not fall between the cracks. There is a long-standing expectation in the hearing community that Deaf children must be exposed to speech language. As an interpreter, working with Deaf adults in a variety of settings, I can tell you that speech may be important in a very small set of circumstances, yet the number one most important thing a Deaf child needs in order to become a successful and prosperous Deaf adult is language fluency! Please understand that speech and language fluency are two very different things. I strongly support this bill as I know it will lead to a brighter future for all Deaf children, no matter if they choose in life to use speech or use sign language. Thank you for your time. Aloha, Heather Benjamin

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 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Lauren Pai of Kaneohe, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Lauren Pai
47-245 C Hui Iwa Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

February 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa

Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Michelle Troxel of Honolulu, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Michelle Troxel

February 2, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa Chair,
House Committee on Human Services Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Michiko Corey of Ewa Beach/Hawaii, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

(signed)

Michiko Corey
91-213 Hanapouli Circle, 37B
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Edward Thompson, III

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:37 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: rovelyn.hermoso@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rovelyn Hermoso	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Representative Dee Morikawa Chair, House Committee on Human Services Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Dear Representative Morikawa: As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Rovelyn Hermoso of Waipahu urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it. Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability. The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii. Sincerely, Rovelyn Hermoso 94-815 Nolupe St. Waipahu, HI 96797

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 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Terri Mehlhorn of Aiea, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Terri Mehlhorn
99-040 Kauhale St. #2161
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

February 4, 2016

HB1780 Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

Representative Dee Morikawa: Chair,
House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. On behalf of Colleen Cidade, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for this.

Basically, HB1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf blind (DHHDB) children with an individual Family Services Plan (IFSP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delay language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays cause by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Colleen Cidade

Colleen Cidade
1308 Farrington Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa

Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa: As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Ben Holbrook of Laie Hawaii, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Ben Holbrook 55-220 Kulanui St

HB1780 TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. On behalf of Beth King, a Teacher of the Deaf on Maui, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it. I have worked as a teacher of the deaf on Maui for 15 years. Most Deaf and HH children enter the DOE at age 3 not even knowing their names, having no access to language role modes (sign language), so when a hearing child can answer who, what, where questions at age 3, a Deaf and Hard of hearing child will answer by pointing, grunting, or if they have formed some speech, they might answer "cookie" when the question is "Where is Gramma now?" Hearing babies and toddlers learn new words by hearing a word 3 times in context. A Deaf or Hard of Hearing child must see, sign, say, that word 36 times before they know it! You can see why starting language at age 3 is already way too late!

These are the only special needs children born into a world where the parents don't learn sign until they themselves make an effort to learn. In Sweden the law states all deaf children born to hearing parents must learn ASL. We are not asking for that. We are asking that we let the schools and IMUA, and other 0-3 services know that they should be tracking the language growth of these children and show an effort to teach language, more than just slipping on hearing aids. 40% of cochlear implanted deaf adults remove them, because it only makes them hard of hearing, still unable to hear speech alone.

I also notice that Administration is not understanding that gaining a Deaf identity at the 0 - 5 age will allow these youths to learn a language at a deep enough level to then begin to learn speech and auditory training. But separating Deaf kids into the mainstream at pre-school age and not giving them a full 6 hours of direct instruction from a Teacher of the Deaf fluent in sign to give the full LANGUAGE understanding is critical. We are having 5 year old cochlear implant hard of hearing children not even knowing language because just sitting next to a child who can hear and speak does not turn these hard of hearing kids into kids that can talk and hear. They need to learn a full language, incorporating ASL.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in ASL and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Beth King

February 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Jacob Tamaye of Pearl City, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Jacob Tamaye
1841 Hookupa Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

kobayashi2-Jessi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:50 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1780 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1780

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for HUS on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. On behalf of [entity name] or [As a resident of Hawaii], I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it. Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Patty Sakal
98-410 Koauka LP #20J
Aiea, HI 96701

Edward Thompson, III

From: cplue@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:00 AM
To: Rep. Daynette Morikawa; Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi
Subject: HB 1780

Dear Dee and Bert,

As you know, passed the [Senate/House] floor. On behalf of the Deaf Community, I urge you to lend support to HB1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB1780 enforces language benchmarks in ASL and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. Deaf children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHH infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support the HB1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Plue, Ed.D.

February 2nd, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Malia Gonsalves of Ewa Beach, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Malia Gonsalves
91-663 Kilipoe Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

LATE

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, *Eric Folk (of Mānoa in Honolulu)*, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it. Children who are deaf who are born of parents who are deaf acquire language and vocabulary at the same rate as hearing children born of hearing parents. However, deaf children of hearing parents lag significantly behind both of these groups. The result of this situation is that far too many children begin their educations at a large disadvantage to their peers.

HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic situation.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed as a matter of process by many professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and meeting the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Eric Folk
2706 Pamoia Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
(808) 372-8220
ericmanoa@gmail.com

LATE

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair and House Committee on Human Services

RE: HB 1780

Thursday, February 4, 2016
8:30 AM in House Conference Room 329

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. On behalf of LisaAnn Tom as a deaf advocate, I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and deaf-blind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf Children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. Not providing the resources to help DHHDB children hit their language developmental milestones, they will experience challenges and struggles later in their lives.

Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB keiki in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to read my testimony.

Sincerely,



LisaAnn Tom
Honolulu, Hawaii



Hawaii
Children's Action Network
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

February 4, 2016

LATE

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Address

850 Richards Street
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Honolulu, HI
96813

P: (808) 531-5502

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

From: Deborah Zysman, Executive Director
Hawaii Children's Action Network

**Re: HB1780 Relating to Education – Support Intent
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 4, 2016 – 8:30 A.M.**

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of the intent of HB1780, Relating to Education.

HCAN is committed to improving lives and being a strong voice advocating for Hawai'i's children. Last fall, HCAN convened input in person and online from more than 50 organizations and individuals that came forward to support or express interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state that resulted in the compilation of 2016 Hawai'i Children's Policy Agenda, which can be accessed at <http://www.hawaii-can.org/2016policyagenda>.

We support the intent of HB1780, which would assist in the establishment of language developmental milestones for the purpose of developing a resource for parents of deaf and hearing impaired children, however, we do not believe the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is equipped to perform this service, which is currently provided through the Department of Health and Department of Education.

Resources for parents of young children in Hawai'i to monitor and track expressive and receptive language acquisition already exist. There are three tools that took several years to develop and are appropriate for use with all children including children with disabilities:

- 1) The Hawai'i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS);
- 2) The Hawai'i Family Partnership Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings; and
- 3) The HELDS Supplemental Guides.

All practitioners working with young children with disabilities in the Department of Education, Department of Health and community childcare should be encouraged to use these tools with their families. See the following links:

- HELDS and Family Guide <http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/>
- Supplement Guides <https://www.hawaii.edu/childrenscenter/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Draft-HELDS-User-Guide-v2.pdf>

The Hawai'i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS) are a set of research-based standards that identify expectations of knowledge and behavior for children through a chronological continuum. The standards are a source document to guide practitioners of children ages 0-5, to intentionally integrate developmental knowledge with the concepts and skills children need to make progress in all domains of learning and development. The HELDS are designed to be supportive, rather than prescriptive or instructive.

Secondly, the HELDS Supplemental Guides is a multi-part series that looks at periods of development roughly associated with age level. The guides provide information on typical preschooler behaviors from the first year to entry to kindergarten within the HELDS domains, listed in approximate sequences of development; specific ways caregivers can support development and learning; and key outcomes that result from these supports.

Finally, the Hawaii Family Partnership Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings is a source document to guide early childhood practitioners in their efforts to create and/or enhance ongoing, responsive and reciprocal relationships with the families enrolled in their programs. It is a set of guidelines that includes key principles and provides actions or strategies practitioners can use to engage more effectively with families.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that members of the Senate Committee on Education consider amending this bill to remove EOEL as the designated agency to implement this program.

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

Our agency, Isle Interpret, LLC of Honolulu, HI, urges you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote in favor of it.

HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

As a community, we must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right.

Some important Facts:

- There is no legal definition of deafness
- Most deaf children are not born deaf
- Most deaf children are born from hearing parents
- Most hearing parents do not know about deafness and look to medical professionals for guidance.
- The medical model works to "fix" the problem with hearing aids and Cochlear Implants.
- The success of a hearing aid/Cochlear Implant depends on the individual's type of hearing loss and remaining hearing. These devices do not make the child hearing.
- Most medical professionals do not encourage learning sign language
- Most hearing parents do not learn sign language
- Birth to 2 years is the critical time for language acquisition
- Deaf children use lipreading as their primary access to a spoken language they don't know
- Only about 30% of English speech is lipread-able
- Most words are unidentifiable on the lips
- As a result they do not share a language in their own homes
- They are often isolated in their own home
- They have limited communication with their families

- They miss “incidental learning” that happens when hearing children over people speaking on the phone, in the store, on the bus, on the playground, etc
- Some families create their own “home-signs” as a last resort
- Children do not learn English or ASL at home
- When a deaf child in a non-signing environment enters school, this is often the first time they are exposed to language via sign language. They have already lost many important language learning years.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

With warm regard,
Isle Interpret, LLC
PO Box 1380
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Tamar Lani, President
Susan Kroe-Unabia, Vice President

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

Our agency, **Isle Interpret, LLC** of Honolulu, HI, urges you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote in favor of it.

HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

As a community, we must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

With warm regard,
Isle Interpret, LLC
PO Box 1380
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Tamar Lani, President
Susan Kroe-Unabia, Vice President

LATE

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. On behalf of [entity name] or [As a resident of Hawaii], I urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language (ASL) and English during each DHHDB child's first five years to ensure they are on track to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten. We all support this bill because we want children to be academically and socially ready for Kindergarten at the age of five. DHHDB children have the same capability for learning language as their hearing peers BUT they must be provided the same support and access they need during the critical period for language development that takes place from infancy through early childhood.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right to ensure that all Deaf babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

It is a very basic human right taken for granted by those with full access to language. Please support HB 1780 and provide a healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Niki Ramsay

LATE

February 4, 2016

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative Dee Morikawa
Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

As you know, House Bill 1780 passed the first reading on the House floor. I, Keri Lee, of Laie HI, urge you to lend support to HB 1780 and vote for it.

Basically, HB 1780 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). I support HB 1780 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right. We must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers.

Please support HB 1780 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

Sincerely

Keri Lee

55-568 Naniloa Loop 2C

Laie, HI 96762

LATE

My daughter had her new born hearing test done at three weeks old. Shortly after we were shuffled into a small room at the hospital and told by a woman we could barely understand that our child was deaf. Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder was the exact diagnosis. We were then sent on our way with little information for how we to prepare on raising our little girl. We were never told about Early Intervention or that there was even a deaf school in Hawaii. We were only referred to Early Intervention when she wasn't meeting developmental milestones, such as sitting up on her own. We then learned that we were behind on teaching our child language. We started signing to her at nine months. By a year old she had learned five words in American Sign Language. Online resources such as My Smart Hands and Life Print recommend that she should know ten or more signs. At her one year appointment I was told by her pediatrician at the time that because she technically did not say the five words with her mouth she technically was not speaking so she wasn't going to put those precious five words in her medical notes. It was devastating because we had worked so hard to get them. I have asked every therapists, she has five different ones, and every doctor, she has six different ones, on how well she is meeting milestones and what I should be working on next to prepare her for her future. Everyone has told me that she is fine. The milestones I look at, the milestones she is compared to, the tests that she has to perform are all based on a hearing child. When Early Intervention does their six month evaluation they have to test her as a hearing child first. She always fails. As soon as you sign the directions to her she performs the task just fine. The state also requires her to have a spoken language goal through Early Intervention; to speak twenty words within six months' time. She will never meet that goal. She is two now and she has a vocabulary of fifty words, she should have a vocabulary of two hundred words. We have exhausted every effort, as a family, that has been available to us. The state needs a separate set of standards for deaf children so everyone is on the same page as to where they should be in their language development. Deaf children need a different set of developmental standards, as well as the parents of deaf children. If the parents know what the developmental standards are then they can better prepare their deaf children to thrive in the hearing world. If I would have had a set of standards available to me, my daughter would be further along in her education and communication skills. If a set of standards were to be developed then parents, like me, would know what to teach and when in order to better prepare them for school.

LATE

February 3, 2016

Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

**Re: HB 1780 Relating to Education – Support Intent
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329, February 4, 2016 – 8:30 A.M.**

Because the ELAB (Early Learning Advisory Board) has not had the opportunity to discuss HB1780, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen who serves on the ELAB. The ELAB advises the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and serves as an independent voice in support of health, safety and quality learning for early childhood.

My testimony is in support of the intent of HB 1780 which would assist in the establishment of language developmental milestones for the purpose of developing a resource for parents of deaf and hearing impaired children. I believe that this service is currently provided through the Department of Health and Department of Education and urge the Committee to recognize that the EOEL is not equipped, nor does it have the capacity to perform it.

Resources currently available that may guide educators and families related to language developmental milestones include the following:

- 1) The Hawai'i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS);
- 2) The Hawai'i Family Partnership Guidelines for Early Childhood Settings; and,
- 3) The HELDS Supplemental Guides

All three are intended for use for all children, those with and without hearing challenges.

In light of the above, particularly the inability of the EOEL to deliver the service desired, I respectfully request that members of the Committee consider removing EOEL as the designated agency to implement this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Robert G. Peters, EdD



February 4, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I support this bill, HB1780. I am deaf, coming from hearing parents and grew up with two older Deaf siblings. I consider myself very lucky. My parents are very supportive and learned American Sign Language to make the communication more accessible in my family. I grew up with a language and have many opportunities. I cannot imagine myself without a language, ASL and I would not be able to achieve who I am today. It is important for these children to have a language ready before going to school. So they have more opportunity to strive and achieve their dreams. I really hope you consider this bill and pass this bill for our keiki's better future.

Mahalo,

Peggy Liang
Independent Living Specialist
Signs of Self
pliang@signsofself.org

JAN L. FRIED • American Sign Language/English Interpreter

• RID Certified-IC, CI, CT • Educator • Consultant •

03 February 15

Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawai'i

LATE

To: Representative Dee Morikawa, Chair,
Representative Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Fr.: Jan Fried

Re: Support for HB 1780, Relating to Education (Hearing on HB 1780; 04 February 2016;
8:30am, Conference Room 329)

Aloha. I write this testimony in full support of HB 1780 from the perspective of being a longtime ally of the Deaf Community, the president of the Hawai'i Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, a professional American Sign Language/English interpreter, and an interpreter educator who prepares college students to become interpreters who work with Deaf and hard of hearing children in K-12 and other settings. I am well aware of how important it is to have early access to language and be cognitively ready for school and the consequences when these do not occur.

Early language acquisition is critical for all children. Unfortunately this is not guaranteed for children who Deaf, hard of hearing or Deaf-Blind (D/HH/DB). Extensive research shows that the earlier children start learning language the better their chances are at being linguistically fluent and academically and socially successful.

All children have the right to understand, name, and talk about their world. The most critical time for this to happen is from infancy to age 3. Why is it acceptable to make D/HH/DB children wait until they enter school at age 5 for this to happen? By that point they have lost countless opportunities to engage in the active learning and language development that occurs with their families and others. The consequence is entering school frustrated and forced to play a lengthy game of "catch up".

HB 1780 enforces language benchmarks in American Sign Language and English during each D/HH/DB child's first five years to ensure readiness for Kindergarten and requires the State's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the child's language development with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). These requirements are particularly crucial because the majority of D/HH/DB children are born to families who can hear and are unfamiliar with and often lack the resources to appropriately support their child's learning and language development.

I strongly encourage your committee to vote in favor of the directives and services required in this bill. It will ensure families get this support early enough to give their children a fighting chance to have their feet firmly planted on the path to linguistic and academic success.

Mahalo.

