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

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February 23, 2016

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**Re: SB 2887, SD1, Relating to Developmental Disabilities – Support
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211 – February 23, 2016, 9:50 A.M.**

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN), formerly Good Beginnings Alliance, we are writing in support of SB 2887, SD1, Relating to Developmental Disabilities.

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 changing the definition of "Developmental Disability" as proposed in this bill, which would amend HRS § 333F-1, to include children from birth to age 9 who have substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition and without services and supports as a high probability of meeting criteria for developmental disabilities later in life. This bill is a priority of the State's Council on Developmental Disabilities to bring the state into accord with the federal definition.

For these reasons, HCAN respectfully requests that members of the Committee pass this bill.