



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB 925
RELATING TO HEALTH

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING
SENATOR JOSH GREEN, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 3, 2015

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes adding a general fund appropriation of \$150,000 for fiscal year
2 2015-2016 to establish one permanent full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
3 coordinator position in the Department of Health and provide operating expenses necessary to facilitate
4 the position activities.

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

7 Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder ("FASD") is the umbrella term used to describe a range of
8 disorders caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. These disorders include fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol-
9 related neurodevelopmental disorder, and fetal alcohol effects or alcohol-related birth defects disorder.
10 Alcohol exposure during pregnancy produces, by far, the most serious neurobehavioral effects in the
11 fetus. There is no known safe amount of alcohol or safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy.
12 Because FASD affects all aspects of a child's life throughout his/her lifetime (cognitive, social/emotional,
13 physical/mental health, school/work activities, independent living, justice system, etc.) and requires
14 support in all areas, the costs can be staggering. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
15 Services Administration (SAMHSA), it costs the nation nearly \$60 billion a year to cover FASD care. The
16 care for one FASD child over his/her lifetime can rise to as much as \$2 million. These costs of care do
17 not consider other personal and emotional challenges parents face when raising a child with an FASD.
18 Yet, FASD is completely preventable. Prevention starts with awareness that links drinking alcohol during
19 pregnancy with increasing risks of having a child with life-long disabilities.

1 The FASD Coordinator position in DOH has been vacant since 2013 due to retirement. DOH has
2 not been able to fill the position due reductions in federal grant funding. Because of the importance of
3 this public health issue, the Department has worked to integrate FASD into existing prevention,
4 screening, and intervention programs. DOH continues to provide logistical support for the State FASD
5 Task Force and has convened a FASD Clinical Committee. However, making meaningful progress and
6 impact for individuals and families affected by FASD requires building a system of prevention,
7 identification and treatment services in partnership across many agencies and programs.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None

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STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
919 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 113
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 3, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Housing
and

The Honorable Josh Green, Chair
Senate Committee on Health
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Green, and Members of the Committees:

SUBJECT: SB 925 – RELATING HEALTH

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD) **SUPPORTS SB 925**. The purpose of the bill is to establish one permanent full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) position in the Family Services Division of the Department of Health (DOH).

It is our understanding that there was a FASD position that provided support and coordination of activities for the FASD Task Force. However, the position was eliminated in 2009 as a result of the State's reduction in force. The Task Force continued to be supported through another source of funding until 2013 due to reduction in that funding source. Since then, there has been no dedicated source of funding or staff to support the work of the Task Force.

Section 1 of the bill provides very compelling information about the numbers of children affected by FASD and the exuberant costs associated with care and treatment for a person diagnosed with FASD. It is in the State's best interest to take a proactive approach in addressing this alarming public health issue by taking the first step in establishing a full-time coordinator position to serve as a key educational, informational, and public access point for relevant State departments, agencies and the public-at-large.

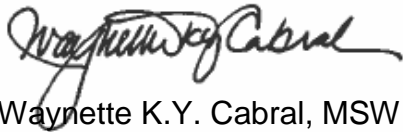
The Council believes that FASD is a very serious condition that affects thousands of children each year in Hawaii, as well as in the United States. FASD is a preventable condition that can cause delays in the development of a child, affect lifelong learning, and result in lifelong disabilities. As a systems advocacy agency responsible

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
The Honorable Josh Green
Page 2
February 3, 2015

for statewide planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and advocacy on behalf of individuals with DD and their families, we support SB 925, and respectfully ask the Legislature to support the passage of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 925**.

Sincerely,



Waynette K.Y. Cabral, MSW
Executive Administrator



Rosie Rowe
Chair

March of Dimes Foundation

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

marchofdimes.com/hawaii

Date: February 2, 2015

To: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland
Honorable Josh Green

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

Re: In support of
SB925

Hearing: Committee on Human Services and Housing
Committee on Health
February 3, 2015
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Green, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for SB925: *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Coordinator*.

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

In 2006, HB2109 was signed into law as Act 204 to establish within the family health services division of the department of health one full-time equivalent permanent professional fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) coordinator position. The FASD coordinator was the state's point of contact for individuals and families affected by FASD and helped coordinate a statewide system of service, including public awareness, increasing capacity for screening and intervention for pregnant women, coordinating resources, and facilitating FASD Task Force meetings and activities. The coordinator position was eliminated in 2009 due to budget cuts.

Today, the need for a coordinated public-private system of service to address FASD remains, for prevention efforts as well as identification and treatment. Passage of SB925 would restore the coordinator position and restart Hawaii's effort to develop that statewide system of service for our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB925.

march  of dimes®

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: avismitchell@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 11:55:56 AM
Attachments: [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.docx](#)

SB925

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avis Mitchell	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support SB925... Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong and create many challenges for individuals affected and their families. FASD can happen anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. No amount of alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy. Many women in Hawaii drink while pregnant. Individuals with FASD and their families have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: cmkmossman@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 9:04:03 AM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Candace Hattori	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have two adopted cousins who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), and their disorders will be with them for life. FASD affects children's physical and mental health in so many ways and makes life very difficult for the children and all those who help care for them. My cousins are both beautiful, loving girls with so much to offer the world, but they and their family members need HELP to continue finding the right therapy, medical care, education, and so much more as they continue to grow and become young adults. Fetal Alcohol Disorder can happen any time a pregnant mother consumed alcohol, and sadly, many women in Hawai'i continue to drink alcohol even while pregnant. Infants born with FASD will be born here, and they and their families will need someone to turn to to find help. Please fund SB925 so that children like my two Hawai'i cousins can have someone to go to for help - someone appointed to a position specifically created to get FASD families the help they desperately need and deserve.

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Cc: hikilak@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:55:37 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Hikila	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in full support of SB925 because: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong and create many challenges for individuals affected and their families. FASD can happen anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. No amount of alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy. Many women in Hawaii drink while pregnant. Individuals with FASD and their families have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives. I am a church leader for two young women (ages 13 and 17) diagnosed with FASD. They have been fortunate enough to live in a caring adoptive home, where both mother and father have had to do their own extensive research (including numerous trips to the mainland) to get their children diagnosed and to learn more about their conditions. It is quite obvious that FASD affects many more individuals in Hawaii, and yet it is misdiagnosed, mistreated, and children are not getting the appropriate care due to our limited resources. With any disability, there are proper ways of treating and accommodating the affected individual through life and school, that information and support must be provided to caretakers to benefit the innocent victims of FASD. Please support SB925.

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: candg@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:35:37 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Kaonohi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB925 because individuals and their families who must deal with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) need support from the Dept of Health. At this point they are navigating difficult water alone with no one to tell them where help may be found. They have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. FASD are lifelong and create many challenges for individuals affected and their families. FASD can happen anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. No amount of alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy. Many women in Hawaii drink while pregnant. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives. Thank you for your support.

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To whom it may concern,

During my life, I have had many experiences dealing with individuals who suffer from FASD. I have worked now for ten years as a special education teacher, and have had several students who suffer from the effects of FASD. My wife's two uncles suffer from FASD. I work with youth in church that have FASD, and my dearest Auntie, Ginny Wright has two daughters that suffer from FASD.

In my dealings with these individuals, I can testify that you will not find anyone more gentle, more caring, or more loving, than those who suffer from FASD. I have known Auntie Wright's daughters for a decade now, and I have never known better people in all of my life. If you have not had the opportunity to know these fine ladies, it would be worth your time to get to know them.

As I have reflected on my experiences during the past fifteen years, I have worked closely with thirty eight individuals who suffer from FASD. They have ranged in age from eight years old to their mid forties. The families of every individual I have worked with have expressed the same concern-that there is no one in government to help them and their families. These families have come to me in tears and expressed their worries that there is no one to give them guidance for medical worries, housing, behavioral help, and life help. I have felt as helpless as them at times because even after all of my searching, phone calls, emails, letters, and requests for information, I have been unable to provide them the help that they have been seeking.

Please, I beg you, **PASS THIS BILL!!!** You will bless the lives of many by passing this and providing them someone to give them the support that they need.

Sincerely,

Decker Smith

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: g hauler@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 5:02:49 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Hauler	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong and create many challenges for individuals affected and their families. FASD can happen anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. No amount of alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy. Many women in Hawaii drink while pregnant. Individuals with FASD and their families have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives. Why wouldn't you do this?

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Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 8:35:09 AM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Herman Tachera	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support SB925. FASD creates lifetime long challenges for individuals and their families

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To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: joelhijirida@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 8:54:31 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Hijirida	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support SB 925. FASD creates lifelong challenges for both the children as well as their families. By creating a position for an individual who can provide outreach services for those affected by this disorder will greatly improve the lives of many families in our community.

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Cc: renerichard1980@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 7:22:31 AM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rene richard	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: FASD is lifelong struggle that many families face and currently have No government assistance for guidance. So many woman make the poor choice to drink while pregnant, and some don't even know that their pregnant at first. Any alcohol consumed while pregnant is a threat, no matter what stage the pregnancy is in. The lack of educational and precautionary guidance is harsh reality. My cousins, both adopted, are two of the most wonderful kind souls that I have ever been blessed with. Even though they were curses with the side effects of they biological mothers choice to drink. Whether is is Hannah's multiple seizures a day, or Michelle's hearing and vision issues, or even the cruelty of teasing from other children, their struggles are real and for life. They have a wonderful Ohana that supports them as much as we can. But it in itself has been a struggle. The introduction of this bill will give our girls the voice in government that is desperately needed. The voice and the power of guidance for support. Whether it is medical assistance, behavioral analysis, or even the basic step of identifying those with FASD as early as possible. Giving them a chance to have the correct training and support to give them a chance to lead a productive life. So many go undiagnosed and end up in the streets and become addicts themselves. Or such as the case of my cousins, these babies are discarded and put up for adoption. Some mothers just simply don't know where to turn. A voice in the government as a guiding light will change the lives of so many for the better. With support and education perhaps we can reach a day where this position is not needed and FASD will become a thing of the past. But that day is not today... The voice is needed for our children who cannot speak up for themselves. Some would say that our girls are so lucky to have been adopted into our family... But we are truly the lucky ones to have them. They give me pure joy when I see them happy, and breaks my heart when I see them struggle or others outcast them and don't understand their differences. Education to prevent FASD and education to teach others is simply something we cannot continue without. This sad reality is something that our girls face everyday and will for years to come. Please help them and in turn help our entire community by spreading the love, understanding and support.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 6:45:03 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wilma Meyer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony in support of measure SB925. My family has been directly affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) for 16 years. It affects my nieces age 16 and 14, both adopted by loving parents. My sister adopted both of these children (along with 4 others with other special needs) knowing full well that they were special children. However she was not prepared to find out that there were absolutely no support to families with this syndrome, let alone anyone whom even diagnosed it initially. She had to journey to the mainland to see a specialist to get an official diagnosis. Then to return to Hawaii with no support. After all these years of raising these two girls, she is probably the most knowledgeable and experienced person regarding this condition. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong and create many challenges for individuals affected and their families. FASD can happen anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. No amount of alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy. Many women in Hawaii drink while pregnant. Individuals with FASD and their families have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives. As a parent of two special needs children, one which is now an adult, I know first hand the difficulties of having to travel to the mainland to receive treatments that are not available here in Hawaii. However, I was fortunate to have support by people who were aware of our disease and helped us. My sister Ginny Wright and her family certainly along with many other families suffering from the effects of FASD, are in desperate need of the funding needed to create a position that is so critical for them in order to ensure the care of their children even into adulthood. Thank you for your time. Wilma U. & Robert P. Meyer

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I support SB925 because Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) affects many families and friends that I know. These families have faced roadblocks after roadblocks in finding help for their families. As a parent of a child with health issues, it was a miracle and blessing to know that I could find help by a phone call. Having someone to call, made all the difference in support.

I support this bill cause I want my friends and families that need help have somewhere to turn to and in return find support. Wouldn't you want your own families to have a place to turn to when you feel hopeless cause you cannot find answers for your own child/grandchild's health? Please help these parents and support this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 9:54:33 AM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda K. DuPont	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I feel strongly that the state should name a qualified person to head a committee to oversee the needs of our community in the struggle with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder amongst our people. The families who are struggling with this problem need the best help they can get. This is an important step in building a better Hawaii.

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I am writing in support for SB925 which calls for one full-time position in the Department of Health specialized in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and designated to assist families of people with FASD.

I have a friend who is the adoptive mother of 5 children with special needs. That in and of itself has me in awe of her love, compassion, and commitment. In addition to the regular challenges of raising not one but multiple children with special needs, I have seen her struggle to get support for 3 of her 6 children with FASD. I was there when she adopted her first child with this disorder and watched as she and her husband patiently took turns trying to find solutions for a screaming infant who couldn't be touched, to be soothed. A military child (back) pack and countless hours of walking into the night was found and they were successful. I also accompanied her to several of his developmental check-ups and witnessed how the success of her constant research on how to teach and stimulate her son was evident by developmental milestones reached. This boy has turned into a fine, caring, and talented young man. Every time I see him I can't help but wonder where he would have ended up if not for the love, commitment, compassion, and diligence shown him by his adoptive parents. With multiple children having this disorder I see where outside support is crucial for the children and their parents. I also think of the thousands of children with this disorder who are not fortunate to have my friends as their parents. Without help, what will become of them?

I have a daughter who is a college graduate, married at age 25, and gave birth to her first child a year later. Unlike my friend's children, the only thing challenging about my granddaughter was that she had colic; a challenging but temporary condition. I have a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling and as I watched my daughter struggle and almost lose it a few times, I couldn't help but think of my friend and all that she goes through to provide her children with a structured and loving environment knowing these are not temporary conditions but permanent ones with complicated issues. I feel for her as she wastes precious time that should be spent with her children trying to find answers and solutions on her own with no one in the Department of Health designated or well versed enough in the disease who can help her.

FASD occurs when the baby is exposed to alcohol in utero through consumption by their mother. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that between 2006-2010, 1 in 13 women consumed alcohol while pregnant. The following statistics are taken from the CDC website and include statistics for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), a more involved diagnosis derived when patients present with multiple physical and developmental abnormalities:

- CDC studies have identified 0.2 to 1.5 infants with FAS for every 1,000 live births in certain areas of the United States.¹ The most recent CDC study analyzed medical and other records and found FAS in 0.3 out of 1,000 children from 7 to 9 years of age. ²
- Studies using in-person assessment of school-aged children in several U.S. communities report higher estimates of FAS: 6 to 9 out of 1,000

- children. [3,4](#)
- Few estimates for the full range of FASDs are available. Based on community studies using physical examinations, experts estimate that the full range of FASDs in the United States and some Western European countries might number as high as 20 to 50 out of 1,000 school children (or 2% to 5% of the population).[3,4](#) (www.cdc.gov)

With these alarming statistics it is apparent that this is a growing concern. As a friend, I can see how valuable this position would be to my friend and her children. As a professional, I can see how necessary this position is for the community is raising awareness of the dangers of alcohol consumption during pregnancy and the benefit it could be in starting communications in the schools as a means of prevention.

Please approve this bill and give these children and their parents the help and support they so desperately need!

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kaipoleimanu Siliga

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: luchong@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:17:38 AM
Attachments: [Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.docx](#)

SB925

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Chong	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are lifelong and create many challenges for individuals affected and their families. FASD can happen anytime a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. No amount of alcohol consumption is safe during pregnancy. Many women in Hawaii drink while pregnant. Individuals with FASD and their families have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives.

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SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelly gillis	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB925 ... Mahalo

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Date: February 2, 2015
Committees: Health, Human Services and Housing
Bill: SB925

Honorable Chairpersons and Members of the Committee on Health and the Committee on Human Services and Housing:

My name is Jane Onoye, Co-Chair of the Hawai'i Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Task Force, and I am writing to strongly support SB925, which proposes to establish one permanent full-time equivalent position for an FASD Coordinator in the Family Services Division of the Department of Health.

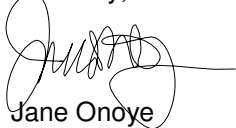
As part of the FASD Task Force, I am concerned about preventing and reducing the prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and their devastating consequences for affected individuals and their families and communities. Drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can result in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) – an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was prenatally exposed to alcohol. Alcohol-exposed pregnancies are the nation's leading known preventable cause of mental retardation and birth defects. The lifetime medical and social costs of each child with an FASD are estimated to be as high as \$2 million. The potential impact of FASD in Hawai'i is just as significant, given that:

- Of approximately 18,900 live births each year in Hawai'i, almost half (46.1% in 2009-2011) of all live births were the result of unintended pregnancies.
- 6.9% (approximately 1,300 per year) of women who gave birth in Hawai'i in 2009-2011 reported that they drank alcohol in the last trimester of their most recent pregnancy.
- 1.2% (approximately 200 per year) of women who gave birth in Hawai'i in 2009-2011 reported binge drinking (4 or more alcoholic drinks in one sitting) in the last trimester of their most recent pregnancy.

People with FASD are vulnerable to a range of serious difficulties, such as failure in school, substance abuse, mental illness, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Youth with FASD are at high risk of getting into trouble with the law. They face many challenges that make them vulnerable, such as: being easily influenced by peer pressure; lacking impulse control; not understanding cause and effect; not learning from mistakes; making poor decisions; having memory problems; and, exhibiting difficulty understanding future consequences. However, FASD is 100% preventable.

The prior FASD Coordinator position was vital for mobilizing programs, families, agencies to identify and coordinate strategies, activities, and resources for prevention and service support for families and individuals. Further, this position was a key liaison within the national FASD network, and also demonstrated significant impact in dissemination of information (i.e., evidence-based interventions, screening tools) and coordination of FASD training efforts across the state (i.e., between 2008-2012 over 600 individuals in medical and allied health professions received FASD training on screening women for alcohol use and/or identification of FASD and integrated systems of care). Currently, without the FASD Coordinator, the progress made while the position existed has been drastically slowed, and momentum for moving into a strategic plan for development of system capacity to prevent, identify, and address FASD issues has greatly suffered. SB295 is critical in that it would restore this essential resource to regain traction in addressing this important public health issue. Therefore, I ask for your strong support of SB531. Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,



Jane Onoye

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: lilianadelapena@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:49:37 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
liliana makaila	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support children that suffer from feel alcohol disorder. This will impede them to live a full live through no fault of their own.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: amcbini@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Sunday, February 01, 2015 4:55:23 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/1/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSB on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela M Mabini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please put SB925 through as I have seen children affected by alcohol abuse of the mother while the baby was in utero. I feel those caring for those children would benefit greatly and NEED an assigned advocate to help them with the struggles they'll face in dealing with the children's lifelong conditions that have resulted from that exposure. Thanks In Advance

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HTHTestimony](#)
Cc: mrncoach@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB925 on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM
Date: Monday, February 02, 2015 2:43:44 PM

SB925

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HTH/HSH on Feb 3, 2015 13:20PM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Nagel	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Individuals with FASD and their families have nowhere to turn for support, information, training, and assistance. Many individuals with an FASD end up homeless, addicted, incarcerated or worse because there is NO support system for them in Hawaii. Funding this ONE position can not only give hope to individuals and families who have and FASD but also help identify those who affected and provide intervention and support early so that they can lead productive lives.

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I support SB925 because Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) affect us all in so many ways. Families, loved ones, and support staff need someone they can turn to when they need help. If there could be an advocate for them we may have the ability to intercede in lives that will affect them and generations to come.

There is no current support system here in Hawaii and this ONE position can make a huge difference. I come from Native American Navajo Nation where I have seen the affects FASD on a personal level. We have the chance to avoid lifelong struggles for those living with FASD . Please help.