



PACT PARENTS AND
CHILDREN TOGETHER
A FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

FROM: Haaheo Mansfield
Senior Vice President of Programs
Parents And Children Together

RE: **In support of SB 981, Hawaii Home Visiting Program**
1:20pm, Conference Room 016

DATE: February 2, 2015

LATE

My name is Haaheo Mansfield. I have employed been by Parents And Children Together for just over 27 years. In my capacity, I oversee 15 of the agency's 16 programs and have had the privilege of supervising the Hana Like Home Visitor Program during Hawaii's stellar Healthy Start era. I have also served on the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council and am the current chair of the State Council on Mental Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in strong support SB 981**. The establishment of the Hawaii Home Visiting Program by the Legislature in 2013 has helped home visiting services to continue in priority high risk neighborhoods. The Hawaii Home Visiting Network Program is also supported in part by federal funds through the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The State's ability to continue to draw down those funds are predicated on the State's ability to provide maintenance of effort funding through **SB 981**. I urge you to **pass SB 981**, doing so means you are taking a stand on behalf of families and children, creating opportunities for them to have healthier and safer lives, raising children who are school ready and developmentally on target.

As you may know, Hawaii's Department of Health under the leadership of Loretta Deliana Fuddy, established a national reputation for designing home visitation services for families at risk for poor health and developmental outcomes. That legacy remains at the forefront of the Hawaii Home Visiting Network Program and has expanded its focus to include school readiness for both parents and their children. Thank you for partnering with us to continue this important work.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me at 847-3285 or email me at adminhmansfield@pacthawaii.org
Our belief is that Hawaii can thrive with an informed and acculturated citizenry. The Immigrant Resource Center can help make that a reality.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in strong support of HB 1737 HD 1**.



**Family
Support
Hawai'i**

*To support
families and
communities in
providing love
and care for
our children.*

LATE

Dear Senators Green, Chun Oakland, and Committee Members:

My name is Ray Wofford, and I am writing as Executive Director of Family Support Hawaii, a community-based non-profit agency founded in 1979 by members of the community who were concerned about the life-long consequences of child abuse and neglect. Our mission is to support families and communities in providing love and care for our children. Though we serve families on the Island of Hawaii, this testimony is in support of children throughout the State of Hawaii.

We now know about the causes of child abuse and neglect, and we also know how to prevent the occurrence of it. The early identification and intervention programs that are currently funded through the \$3 Million in the DOH budget are shown to be effective, not only in preventing abuse and neglect, but also in preventing larger costs to the State associated with child abuse and neglect. Maintenance of the \$3 Million in funding will also enable the state to draw down funds through the Affordable Health Care Act.

This level of funding maintains services for only some of the children and families in need throughout the State of Hawaii. It nevertheless represents Hawaii's commitment to prevention, and we urge your support of SB 981.

Sincerely,

Ray Wofford
Executive Director
Family Support Hawaii



A United Way Agency

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February 3, 2015

Senator Josh Green, MD, Chairman, Senate Health Committee
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senate Human Services Committee

Re: SB 981 Relating to Health

Dear Senators Green, Chun-Oakland and Committee Members

My name is Melodie Nalua'i Vega, Director Early Childhood Programs at Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers, testifying in support of home visiting services for high risk, disadvantaged families with infants and toddlers.

The purpose of this initiative is to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote well-being, health and positive development of infants and toddlers who are at great risk for abuse and neglect, lack of school readiness and need for special education, as well as a wide variety of social and health problems stemming from trauma and poor developmental foundations.

Within the services we provide to at risk families in Kona and Wailuku in fiscal year 2014:

- 100% of keiki, 8 months through 36 months, were developmentally screened using the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Questionnaire.
- 100% of parent participants were screened for depressive symptoms or parenting stress using the Parenting Stress Index.
- 100% of adult participants were screened for domestic violence within 6 months of enrollment.
- 35% of families received additional services, including, social service, health and welfare, and assistance for keiki with special needs.

The average yearly income for enrolled participants in services in the above areas was approximately \$20,000.

Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers supports the DOH budget of \$3 million to maintain existing services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation. We are blessed to be able to provide these needed services.

Sincerely,

Melodie Vega, ECE Programs Director
Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers