

# SB405

Measure Title: RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION.

Report Title: Early Intervention; Department of Health; Web-based Data System; Appropriation (\$)

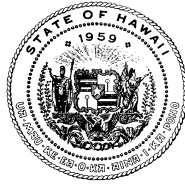
Description: Appropriates funds for the procurement of, and maintenance and training for, a web-based data system in the department of health's early intervention section.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): BAKER, KIDANI, Inouye, Kim, Nishihara, Taniguchi



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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 405**  
**RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
Hearing Date: February 1, 2017                      Room Number: 229

1    **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes a general fund appropriation for the Early Intervention  
2    Section (EIS) of the Department of Health (DOH) for procurement of a web-based early  
3    intervention (EI) data system and for the maintenance and training required to support the web-  
4    based data system.

5    **Department Testimony:** We appreciate the intent of this bill proposing a general fund  
6    appropriation for the EI web-based data system, but defer to the Governor's Executive Budget  
7    request and to the DOH's appropriations and personnel priorities.

8            EIS provides EI services for children age 0-3 years with developmental delays or at  
9    biological risk for developmental delays, as mandated by the federal law Part C of the  
10   Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Approximately 3,500 children each year  
11   receive EI services through 20 EI Programs that are State-operated or contracted providers for  
12   specified geographical areas. Services include care coordination; family training, counseling,  
13   home visiting; nutrition; occupational therapy; physical therapy; psychology; social work;  
14   special instruction; speech therapy; and other services. Studies have shown the benefits of EI  
15   services to children and families and the economic advantages of quality EI services.

16            The original data system was developed for New Mexico's EI system in 2000, and  
17   modified by EIS in 2007 for Hawaii use. The current EIS database is out-of-date by national  
18   standards, with lack of a web-based data system. Other statewide EI programs in 34 states have  
19   web-based data systems.

1           The proposed data system will support children/families in receiving timely EI services  
2 that are needed to support the child's development. The data system will have a complete child  
3 record for planning and provision of services in a single data system, instead of the current  
4 fragmented record in separate databases or paper records. A child's services will be tracked as to  
5 when services are due, which will support service delivery; the current database does not have a  
6 tracking system. The proposed data system will allow for more frequent or timely monitoring  
7 which may include review for appropriate services; this will improve the current annual  
8 monitoring by an external EIS team that reviews paper records onsite at each EI program.

9           The proposed database will increase the efficiency and quality in providing EI services,  
10 through streamlining program and administrative processes, automating processes that are  
11 currently done by paper or manually, and improving accountability. It will reduce inefficiencies  
12 in areas that include: troubleshooting and working around operational problems, time-consuming  
13 process of consolidating data from 20 EI programs into a single central database, duplicate data  
14 entry in different databases, manual labor-intensive Medicaid reimbursement process, and  
15 cumbersome contract tracking and billing reconciliation.

16           EIS has conducted a software assessment and feasibility study to examine the existing  
17 software systems, provide insight into current operating procedures, and identify ways to  
18 modernize the existing software and systems. The assessment identified issues, challenges, and  
19 constraints of the current system, and provided macro recommendations for system  
20 improvements and desired outcomes. A next step is creation of a traceability matrix to prioritize  
21 requirements. Funding will be needed for the procurement of a data system that will meet EIS  
22 needs for timeliness, quality, and efficiency in the provision of EI services.

23           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.