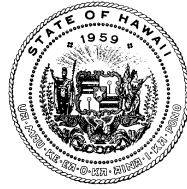


SB883

Measure Title:	RELATING TO HEALTH.
Report Title:	Healthy Start; Child Abuse Prevention; Appropriation (\$)
Description:	Appropriates funds for healthy start child abuse prevention services.
Companion:	
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	KANUHA, S. CHANG, K. RHOADS, K. Kahele



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

LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 883
RELATING TO HEALTH**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: February 8, 2019 Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** S.B. 883 proposes a general fund appropriation of \$3,558,000 for
2 Department of Health (DOH) healthy start child abuse prevention services. The Department
3 defers to the Governor’s Biennium Budget Request for appropriation priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department respectfully offers comments on S.B. 883 to fund
5 healthy start child abuse prevention services for families of newborns at very high risk of
6 maltreatment and neglect across the State.

7 A healthy birth and positive experiences in early childhood can promote health and development.
8 One approach that improves outcomes for children and their parents is home visiting. To
9 strengthen families and promote positive parent-child relationships, home visiting provides
10 individually tailored support, resources, and information to expectant parents and families with
11 young children. The goals of the program are to improve maternal and child health, prevent child
12 abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school
13 readiness.

14 Since enactment of the federal Affordable Care Act of 2010, the Department has administered
15 the current home visiting program in geographic areas selected through a statewide need’s
16 assessment. The program was codified by statute in 2017 (HRS §321-327) and is a public-private
17 partnership with five early identification programs in birthing hospitals that screen pregnant
18 women and families with newborns, determine program eligibility, and refer eligible families to
19 ten evidence-based home visiting voluntary programs through the “Your ‘Ohana” Network.

1 On October 1, 2018, the DOH received a \$3.8 million Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood
2 Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services,
3 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). To receive current federal MIECHV
4 grant funds, HRSA requires the DOH to support evidence-based home visiting services with
5 state funds—or maintenance of effort—each year. Beginning with the State FY 2018 budget,
6 DOH received a \$3 million general funds appropriation for evidence-based home visiting
7 maintenance of effort. This amount is in the Department’s recurring base budget request. With
8 the state funds, the total MIECHV program budget is \$6.8 million.

9 In 2017, the program conducted nearly 11,000 home visits reaching 128 pregnant women, 712
10 parents/guardians and 801 children in 840 households in a year. More than half—or about 52
11 percent—of those home visits were on O’ahu; Hawai’i island was the second largest beneficiary
12 at about 21 percent of the total home visits, followed by Maui with 10 percent. Moloka’i, Lana’i
13 and Kaua’i, each ranged from 4 percent to 7 percent of total home visits.

14 The Department projects that during this current two-year grant period (October 1, 2018 –
15 September 30, 2020), the combination of federal and state funding will allow us to reach more
16 than 1,700 participants through the home visiting program.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None

SB-883

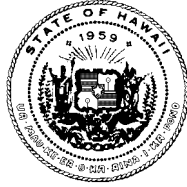
Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:35:48 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/8/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 7, 2019

LATE

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 883 – RELATING TO HEALTH**

Hearing: Friday, February 8, 2018, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to fund healthy start child abuse prevention services for families of newborns at very high risk of maltreatment and neglect across the state. General revenues of the State of Hawaii in the sum of \$3,558,000 or so for fiscal year 2019-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof for fiscal year 2020-2021 for healthy start child abuse prevention services.

Children ages 0-3 are our most vulnerable population and for SFY 2018 made up 36% of the total number of children in foster care. In SFY 2018, there were 959 children aged 0-3 of a total number of 2,686 children in foster care. Consistent with national statistics, this is the largest group of children in foster care in Hawaii. Funding for services for these infants, toddlers and their caregivers is a good investment for the future of the State to reduce the impact of abuse and neglect on the children, to prevent future abuse and neglect, and to reduce the associated social and financial costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



HAWAII FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE
Making Hawaii's Families Strong

February 8, 2019

LATE

Senator Ro z Baker, Chair CPH Committee
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice-Chair CPH Committee

Re: SB 883, relating to Healthy Start home visiting

Dear Senator Baker, Chang and members of the CPH Committee,

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute testifying in strong support of SB 883, relating to the Healthy Start home visiting program. I am assuming that the funding request of \$3,558,000 per year for this initiative represents the Maintenance of Effort amount needed to continue to draw down substantial federal funds of at least \$4,000,000 annually.

First, I would like to clarify that the current home visiting initiative for at risk infants and toddlers under the DOH, Maternal Child health Branch, now includes not only Healthy Families American, similar to the former Healthy Start program but also the Parents as Teachers program and HIPPY, a home based program for young children with developmental delays.

These programs serve families of infants and toddlers who are at risk for abuse, neglect and developmental problems. All of the programs function under a federal program the Mother Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program, or MIECHV. Services include family support, assistance with concrete needs, promoting positive mother baby relationships, intervening with domestic violence, referrals for treatment of parental issues such as substance abuse, mental health problems.

To appreciate the value of this program is to understand early brain development and the impact of negative experiences during this period of formative brain development.

- A baby is born with trillions of neurons waiting to be wired into a brain and is initially programmed through interactions with parents.
- Nurturing and consistent care promotes brain development in sequential patterns, establishing language, ability to related to others and positive self esteem

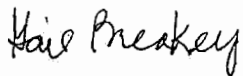
- Lack of nurturing, trauma and a chaotic environment interrupt these patterns, often resulting in chronic post traumatic stress and a host of negative behaviors and developmental problems.

The MIECHV program is strategic:

- It intervenes during the most important time in a child's social-emotional development.
- It's cost effective at an average of \$4,000 per family compared with estimated lifetime cost of \$210,012 for one untreated child abuse case (CDC)

MIECHV is successful. Annual data reports show high rates of success in meeting state contract objectives. Please support this legislation with changes reflecting that funding is for the Mother Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program, Your Ohana.

Sincerely,



Gail Breakey, Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute



TO: Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Friday, February 8, 2019; 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 229

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 883 RELATING TO HEALTH

We ask you to support SB 883 which appropriates funds for healthy start child abuse prevention services. We strongly support the funding for this bill to ensure that Hawaii continues to receive federal funding for home visiting services through the Department of Health. We agree with the legislature's findings "that a healthy home and upbringing is imperative for families of newborns throughout the State, especially for those at risk of child maltreatment and developmental delays and families in need of extra parenting support." This bill will ensure that families along with their keiki have access to these critical prevention services and set the stage for healthy, hope-filled futures.

Every keiki deserves a safe and nurturing home. As a provider of child abuse prevention programs in Hawaii, Parents And Children Together humbly asks for your support in helping to sustain quality programs that strengthen families, mitigate risk factors and increase protective factors. Child abuse prevention programs have played a critical role in ensuring that parents and keiki get the support they need to help them create strong foundations needed to build upon for future success. Healthy Start child abuse prevention services provide 1) early identification and 2) home visiting component. The infancy stage are the most critical years of a child's development and providing early intervention and quality care for both a child along with their family increases future health, educational, social and emotional development for children. According to both local and national studies over time, Healthy Start served families:

- had significantly lower abuse rates compared with the national average of families with similar income levels.
- showed greater use of non-violent discipline and less physical aggression.
- had rates of domestic violence that were approximately 50% less than that of the control group.
- (particularly mothers) suffered less from depression.
- had high levels of program participation with a low drop-out rate.
- had children who performed better in school with lower rates of low academic achievement that similarly situated peers who were not program participants.

Healthy Start is a model that was born in Hawaii and adopted nationally. It is a program proven to make significant impacts in the lives of children and families, particularly those who need the most support. Families receive medical and developmental assessments to support their children, social-emotional support, assistance in identifying and planning to reach family goals, obtaining material supplies (food, clothing, household furnishing, etc.), support in bonding and interacting with their infant, education around early childhood development, mentoring in parenting skills and life coping skills and assistance with housing and employment. Parents are also connected to resources for parent-child attachment, domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health problems. The family is supported in becoming more self-reliant and able to provide a safe, nurturing home environment for their children. One of our program participants shared,

“My Home Visitor encouraged me to create a Goal Plan. I chose to make one of my goals to be able to save enough money to buy a brand new stroller for my baby by the end of January 2019. My Home Visitor created a savings envelope where I put \$20 every paycheck. On Christmas Eve, I had \$100 saved and my husband had save over \$100 from his tips. We realized we could purchase any stroller that we wanted! When my Home Visitor came for our next home visit, I was so excited to show her the stroller we chose. She helped me mark off that I completed my first goal – earlier than I had planned. I use my stroller every day to walk my older daughter to school and to the park. My baby loves it!”

Investments in prevention programs like Healthy Start child abuse prevention services can provide great future value for our communities with cost savings in areas such a health, welfare assistance and special education services down the road. Healthy families are also less likely to place burden on our law enforcement and judicial systems. Families who participate in these programs are often more likely to be focused on a positive future story and have the support, resources, tools, skills and hope necessary to increase their family’s overall health and economic mobility and sustainability. An investment in Healthy Start child abuse prevention services is an investment in the healthy futures of our keiki and families in Hawaii.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii’s not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 883**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.