



TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

DATE/LOCATION: March 17, 2020; 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2537 – RELATING TO THE FUNDING OF GRANTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

We offer testimony in support of HB 2537 which appropriates operating and capital improvement grants for fiscal year 2020 and extend our appreciation to the legislature.

Given the current circumstances, we appreciate your support of HB 2537 which provides the guidelines and provisions for the funding of critical services and projects throughout Hawaii. Many of Hawaii's nonprofits have identified key issues that need attention and support. Grant-In-Aid's help to address these intervention and prevention activities, along with capital to improve facilities. Continued support from the Legislature allows for innovation and capacity building strategies that support our keiki, families, individuals, and the environment. We appreciate that the legislature continues to make these key investments in initiatives that support, enhance, improve and uplift our communities. These investments are greatly appreciated.

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, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on **HB 2537**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.