



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 662
RELATING TO HEALTH.

JOHN M. MIZUNO CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 02-01-19

Room Number: 329

1 **Department Testimony:**

2 The Department of Health supports this measure to designate the month of October as
3 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). NDEAM celebrates and
4 educates the public about the contributions of workers with disabilities. Activities during
5 October will reinforce the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces
6 and businesses and affirm a commitment to an inclusive community.

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8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

HB662 Designate October as Development Disability Month

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH:

- Rep. Mizuno, Chair; Rep. Kobayashi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

- Rep. San Buenaventura, Chair; Rep. Nakamura, Vice Chair
- Friday, Feb. 1, 2019: 9:00 am
- Conference Room 329

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports HB622:

GOOD MORNING CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization of almost 40 non-profit alcohol and drug treatment and prevention agencies.

People can and do recover. Let us celebrate how amazing they are!

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.

HB-662

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 2:27:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/1/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB662. People with disabilities are great contributors to society. To be overlooked, marginalized, and isolated from the "mainstream" does them a great disservice. I work with people with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, an invisible disability because there are very few physical signs of a disability. I have seen people with FASD struggle to understand why they have difficulty fitting into society, following rules, and understanding the world. Yet, with great assistance, they are wonderful people who can contribute to society if given the chance. It is important to celebrate life and particularly to celebrate the gifts from those who are considered "disabled."

Sincerely,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMAMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
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February 1, 2019

The Honorable Representative John Mizuno, Chair
House of Representatives Committee on Health
and

The Honorable Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Chair
House of Representatives Committee on Human Services and Homelessness
Thirtieth Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative John Mizuno, Representative Joy San Buenaventura, and
Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: HB 0662 - Relating to Health

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 0662**. The bill designates the month of October as "Disability Awareness Month: Employment, Enrichment, and Inclusion" to annually recognize the immense contributions and achievements of persons with disabilities in the State.

People with disabilities cross lines of age, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. It is a group **anyone** can become a member of at any time. Disability Awareness Month in October will allow us to celebrate the skills, talents, and abilities people with disabilities contribute to Hawaii's future prosperity. It will also provide a venue to highlight the success of individuals with disabilities in the workforce. A valuable tool in providing awareness, that employment is possible, to school-aged children with disabilities and their families.

Awareness is the most effective way to create systems change.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB 0662**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator