



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 9, 2023

The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health and Homelessness
and
The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Belatti, Representative Mizuno and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB900 Related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **Supports HB900**, which Establishes the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders special fund, to be administered by the department of human services, and which shall consist of federal funds and interest earned on those funds. Establishes a temporary fetal alcohol spectrum disorders task force within the department of health for administrative purposes. Requires a report to the legislature.

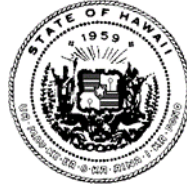
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an underdiagnosed and underrepresented developmental disability in our state. There is no concrete way to make a diagnosis and FASD can share symptoms with other developmental disabilities and learning disabilities. From a 2012 study looking at the prevalence of FASD a conservative estimate was 1% of our population. However, the study noted that this estimate is most likely on the low end, and the real rate could be up to 5%. For perspective, the current prevalence rate for all intellectual/developmental disabilities is 1.58 percent of our population. Even at 1% prevalence rate FASD would make up a significant portion of our I/DD community.

The Council is in favor of the creation of this task-force especially if federal money is able to be drawn down and used to better the FASD community in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB900**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
House Committee on Health & Homelessness

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 900 – RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS.**

Hearing: February 10, 2023, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconferencing, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the measure's intent, offers comments, and defers to the Departments of Budget & Finance and Health.

PURPOSE: This measure establishes the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders special fund, to be administered by the department of human services, and which shall consist of federal funds and interest earned on those funds. Establishes a temporary fetal alcohol spectrum disorders task force within the department of health for administrative purposes. Requires a report to the legislature.

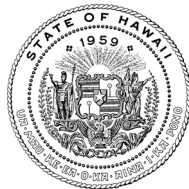
DHS appreciates the Legislature's attention to increasing resources for individuals and families impacted by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

Regarding the proposed special fund, DHS defers to the testimony of the Department of Budget and Finance that the proposed special fund may not be appropriate.

Regarding the proposed task force, DHS defers to DOH in terms of resources needed to facilitate the task force and notes for the committee that there are other measures proposing a task force (HB897) that have overlapping purposes and membership. DHS has been working with the DOH and community advocates to improve access and increase resources for individuals and families addressing neurodevelopmental needs, irrespective of the cause, and will continue to do so.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
AND HUMAN SERVICES
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 900

February 10, 2023
8:30 a.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 900.

H.B. No. 900:

- Establishes the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Special Fund to be administered and expended by the Department of Human Services.
- Establishes a FASD Task Force, placed within the Department of Health for administrative purposes, and specifies the composition, the duties and responsibilities, and the dissolution date of the FASD Task Force.
- Requires the FASD Task Force to submit a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an

explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 900, the deposit of federal funds is not an appropriate source of funding for the FASD Special Fund and B&F does not support the deposit of federal funds into special funds. Federal funds should be kept separate from other types of funds for compliance and reporting purposes. Further, the purpose of the federal grant may not be totally aligned with statutory uses of the special fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



HB900 FSAD Task Force and Funding

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Friday, Feb. 10, 2023: 8:30 am: Room 329 Videoconference

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports HB900

ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies and recovery services.

FASD is a preventable and treatable disability.

There are significant and increasingly improved interventions that are available for mental health issues such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and other disorders.

With home-based and community-based healthcare supported by a Task Force to improve access to essential services, we can make a difference.

FASD is a problem in Hawaii and efforts can be made to prevent this devastating condition as well as to treat children and adults that would increase their functioning:

- FASD is a range of neurodevelopmental (brain-based) disabilities that can affect any person exposed to alcohol before birth.
- FASD effects may include physical, mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications that often co-occur with substance abuse and mental health issues.
- Proactive health care programs and interventions can help people develop new learning and coping skills to help them improve functioning. Modifications to existing treatment models can be very effective.
- FASD is very expensive to healthcare with estimates that the lifetime costs for each person is estimated to be over \$2M.
- Individuals with FASD are involved with the criminal justice system at an alarming rate. Youth and young adults with FASD have a form of brain damage that may make it difficult for them to stay out of trouble with the law. Without the aid of proper treatment, they do

not know how to deal with police, attorneys, judges, social workers, psychiatrists, corrections and probation officers, and others they may encounter.

We can make a difference:

- Understand the disorder and reshape some of our interventions to change a child's behavior and improve functionality.
- Reduce the prevalence of FASD.
- Empower care givers to help FASD people reach their full potential.
- Address stigma by educating our communities to understand the complexities of this disability while promoting a more inclusive culture.
- Greatly improve upon outcomes through measurement brought about by Medicaid funding.
- Reduce childhood trauma by increasing supports for high-risk families, building resilience, and improving access to treatment.

Working together, we can join the growing number of states that claim to be a “FASD-Informed State.”

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



Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group

Board of Directors 2022

Ann S. Yabusaki, PhD, MFT
Founder, Director
Private Practice

Cleo Brown
President, Director
Community Advocate

Ken Yabusaki, Ph.D.
Treasurer, Director
Retired Biochemist

Alan Shinn, MSW
Director
Director

Vivian Aiona
Director
Community Advocate

Sina P. Pili, MSW
Director
Behavioral Health Specialist

Stephanie W. Batzer, Esq., LSW
Secretary, Director
Child & Family Law
Child & Family Social Work

Stephen W. Lane
Director
Steve Lane & Associates

Jane Onoye, Ph.D.
Director
Associate Professor, Research
Division of the University of
Hawai'i, JABSOM Department of
Psychiatry

Robert M. Armstrong
Director
Chair – Legislative Committee
Global Executive with a focus on
Communication, Public Relations
Nonprofit Leadership and
Advocacy

February 7, 2023

RE: Testimony to the House Committee on Health & Homelessness
Friday, February 10, 2023, 8:30 AM
Via Video Conference, Conference Room 329

HB 900, Relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi and members of the Committee on Health & Homelessness and Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Finance

We are in **strong support** of HB 900 which establishes a special fund, to be administered by the department of human services, and which shall consist of federal funds and interest earned on those funds. Establishes a temporary FASD task force within the department of health for administrative purposes and requires a report to the legislature.

FASD encompasses a range of effects on the brain and body of individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol. FASD is a lifelong disability. Individuals affected by FASD display various challenges in their daily living and are often misdiagnosed and misunderstood. FASD-informed education and interventions are critical for individuals and their families. With full support and education, individuals with an FASD will achieve their full potential and lead productive lives.

Research shows alcohol causes far greater harm to the brain than other drugs, yet recognition of the disability, with appropriate FASD-informed support and services can prevent secondary disabilities (e.g., dropping out of school, getting into trouble with the law, alcohol, and drug use, etc.)

Establishing a task force will prepare the State of Hawaii to identify and resolve the impeding questions and issues on funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and gather information related to why FASD funding for informed services is not available in most cases.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation and we appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Cleota G. Brown, President

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6611, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 -9178
Email: hawaiifasdactiongroup@gmail.com Ph: 808-258-5874

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:50:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Erteschik	Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an issue that has been a high priority of ours for several years. Section 1 of the bill very aptly lays out the nature and extent of the problem. Individuals with FASD fall into a true gap group. Given the fairly restrictive eligibility criteria for mental health or developmental disabilities services they may well not qualify for either. Yet they exhibit behavior that might parallel those conditions and have needs that are just as significant. Efforts in the past have focused on education about the dangers of alcohol consumption while pregnant. However, much more is needed. These people really need services. Forming a Task Force would be a good way to bring stakeholders together to help develop a plan to put that in place.

We note that the bill also creates a Special Fund. If the legislature were inclined to take this a step further here is a thought to consider. There are various proposals to increase the tax on alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages. While we take no particular position on that and acknowledge that it is a thorny policy decision, we would say that if the tax were to be increased, instead of depositing all the additional revenue into the general fund, depositing some into the FASD Special Fund might very well be a perfectly appropriate use. Debates over the years at the legislature regarding special funds have typically focused on whether there is a clear nexus between the fees that are assessed and how the monies in the special fund will be utilized. We would submit that using proceeds from a tax on alcohol to address fetal alcohol spectrum disorder would present about as clear a nexus as one might imagine.



To: The Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness

The Honorable Representative John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Re: Support of HB 900, Relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Hrg: Friday, February 10th, 2023 at 8:30am, Conference Room 329

Support

Due to the subtle and often undetectable nature of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) diagnosis, many individuals go undiagnosed and do not receive the necessary treatment. This measure would help to create a needed task to provide a plan on how to address FASD in our state.

Mahalo,

Rick Collins
Director
Hawai'i Alcohol Policy Alliance

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Rep. Terez Amato	Rep. John M. Mizuno
Rep. Greggor Ilagan	Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	Rep. Diamond Garcia

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. Terez Amato, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Jenna Takenouchi
Rep. Greggor Ilagan	Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto
Rep. Bertrand Kobayashi	Rep. Diamond Garcia

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 10, 2023
TIME: 8:30 AM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT HB 900**

Dearest Chairs, Honorable Representative Della Au Belatti and Honorable Representative John Mizuno and Vice Chairs, Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi and Honorable Representative Terez Amanato, and members of the Health and Homelessness and Human Services Committees.

I am Darlyn Chen Scovell, a volunteer advocate for families and children with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and the Hawaii FASD Action Group. Being the voice of children who have none and individuals with FASD who have been marginalized, unrecognized, and without help, attention, and services for many, many years. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB 900**

I am again pleading and humbly requesting for your VOTE, SUPPORT and to PASS HB 900 out of your committees. I am reaching out for your help in my fight for FASD Services and Community Awareness with a Noble Objective of *decreasing the number of babies born with FASD in Hawaii, spearheading the much-needed services and understanding of this invisible disability, FASD.*

FASD diagnosis is a processing disorder, learning disability, and attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder, similar to Autism Spectrum Disorders however distinctly VERY DIFFERENT. The NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPAIRMENTS associated with FASD came WITH SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL COST ACROSS THE LIFESPAN in increased medical, educational, and vocational support and lost productivity. I have worked with children with Autism as a Registered Behavioral Therapist under ABA Guidelines. In my observations, FASD is a Developmental Disability that is equally as severe as Autism, with the significant challenge that **FASD disability is NOT VISIBLE**; they look like you and me, and their IQ may pass as normal initially, but the damage is in the brain, neurological damage caused by ALCOHOL consumption during pregnancy. This is a CAUSE SPECIFIC AND PREVENTABLE.

Unfortunately, alcohol advertising fails to inform adequately about the dangers associated with alcohol use by childbearing-age consumers. The label adopted by the alcohol industry suggests that alcohol should be avoided during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects, which may occur before a woman knows she is pregnant. Since many pregnancies are unplanned or mistimed, women may unintentionally expose their offspring to alcohol without realizing it. **Not all women have regular monthly periods.** Multiple organs of the fetus are at risk of damage from the teratogenic effects of alcohol crossing the placenta. The trajectory and long-term outcomes of those with **Prenatal Alcohol exposure (PAE)** were initially shrouded in mystery. Practitioners in the field then adopted the term invisible disorder for the consequences of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure. According to the *DSM-5*, the diagnostic terms fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) or neurodevelopmental disorder associated with prenatal alcohol exposure (ND-PAE) describes the combined challenges and strengths common in people whose mothers consumed sufficient alcohol at the threshold known to be associated with adverse neurobehavioral effects. Individuals diagnosed with Neuro Developmental-Prenatal Alcohol Exposure suffer primarily from cognitive and intellectual deficits, including the areas of learning and memory, language, attention, executive functioning, and adaptive and social functioning (Mela, 2023). Experts estimated that 2% to 5% of U.S. schoolchildren—as many as 1 in 20—are affected by prenatal alcohol exposure, which can cause complications with growth, behavior, and learning (APA, 2022). The prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in the United States may be much higher than previous estimates have indicated. Researchers reported in the February 6 JAMA that in four communities they studied, as much as 1.1 percent to 5 percent of first-grade children were affected, and those were conservative estimates (Moran, 2018).

Numerous scientific studies have shown that early diagnosis prevents secondary disabilities, such as school failure, juvenile delinquency, mental health problems, homelessness, and unemployment. Individuals with undiagnosed FASD often end up as recidivist clients in institutional settings, including jails, mental health programs, psychiatric hospitals, and homeless shelters. Do you know that we send our FASD Students needing care to the mainland, which costs us \$18,000.00 monthly, paid by the Hawaii Department of Education? Our very own Hawaii family is willing to come forward to provide details of this information. According to the Hawaii Department of Public Safety, the state spends about **\$140 per inmate per day**, which includes program services, food, health care, and administrative costs. When you add it up, that amounts to \$51,100 per year per prisoner locked up in Hawaii. This data was dated in 2016, and I am sure it is much more now. Our Hawaii State records show the cost to transport prisoners to and from the mainland — and to house them — have grown tremendously. In 2016, the state flew a total of 650 inmates to or from Saguaro at the cost of \$871,213, which works out to about **\$1,300 each way per inmate. There are current indicators that most of our inmates have FASD, most especially repeat offenders.**

The support for FASD research and services is limited. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism funds innovative research on FASD, said Christie Petrenko, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and research associate professor at Mt. Hope Family Center, University of Rochester, and co-director of the FASD Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic. Despite everything, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Services Administration (SAMHSA)–funded FASD Center for Excellence program was shuttered in 2016, leaving a big gap between research and practical solutions for children and families affected by FASD. Currently, a bipartisan bill before Congress, the FASD Respect Act, would support FASD research, surveillance, and activities related to diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. (APA has endorsed this bill.) Our legislators have fully supported the FASD Respect Act from Hawaii to Washington, DC, which I was also involved in.

I am fortunate to have letters to the Congressional Delegation to Capitol Hill to seek all our Washington, DC representatives to Co-Sponsor the FASD Respect Act. ALL of our representatives in Washington DC signed and Co-Sponsored S.2238 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) and H.R.4151 - FASD Respect Act - 117th Congress (2021-2022) Advancing FASD Research, Services, and Prevention Act or the FASD Respect Act. With this in line, we need to have an action plan and services for our families and children with FASD in Hawaii. **Our nation and the world now recognize this is an existing problem that needs action and support.** I hope you will be another Champion for this invisible disability population clouded by the stigma that their own mothers with guilt, shame, and fear of being judged, refuse to come forward to fight for these children. These children were said to have fallen into the cracks of our society, and I begged to disagree; they have fallen over the cliff and were forgotten.

Please help me help these children and families impacted with FASD. Please **VOTE to PASS HB 900**. Thank you so much. Please do let me know if there is anything else I can do to help this population who they say have fallen into the crack of our society and in my opinion, they fallen on the cliff and have been forgotten. FASD children who have an invisible disability – INVISIBLE NO MORE!

These children are born in an impossible world ~ Please let us make this world possible for them.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

Always with Gratitude.
Respectfully yours,
Darlyn Chen Scovell

Reference

American Psychological Association. (n.d.). *A hidden epidemic of fetal alcohol syndrome*. Monitor on Psychology. Retrieved January 14, 2023, from <https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/07/news-fetal-alcohol-syndrome#:~:text=Experts%20estimate%20that%20%25%20to,growth%2C%20behavior%2C%20and%20learning>.

Mela, M. (2023). Patients with prenatal alcohol exposure frequently misdiagnosed, face multiple challenges. *Psychiatric News*, 58(01). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.pn.2023.01.1.12>

Moran, M. (2018). Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders may be more common than previously thought. *Psychiatric News*, 53(5). <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.pn.2018.3a8>

Zagorski, N. (2017). Study estimates 630K infants born with FASD globally each year. *Psychiatric News*, 52(19), 1–1. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.pn.2017.9b19>

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:02:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sina Pili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent of a child diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). FASD is not widely known in the Hawaii Dept. of Health or Dept. of Education. As a mother, we have encountered many supports that did not know how to correctly provide support through these two departments because the professionals were not FASD informed and lacked the FASD informed services. This bill is needed to support the children & families affected with FASD. Our children & families deserve the correct services they need and preventions for women affected.

Mahalo,

Sina P. Pili

pili.sina.p@gmail.com

(808)763-8638

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:49:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann S. Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Health and Homelessness House Committee,

I am writing in full support of HB900. Individuals and families affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) often suffer in silence and alone because people with FASD often do not qualify for services under the current guidelines of the developmentally disabled.

I am a psychologist with clients and families affected by the effects of prenatal alcohol exposure. Prenatal alcohol exposure can affect memory, learning, language, and executive functioning and present with other brain-related (hidden) disabilities. These challenges can preclude many with an FASD from successfully holding jobs unless proper support is supplied. Some of my clients are homeless, in the criminal justice system, have been expelled from multiple schools, and have mental health and substance abuse issues. Yet, with proper support, I have seen successful, happy, and productive individuals with FASD.

I urge the committee to consider the human cost of this under-recognized and under-diagnosed situation. In 2018, one in twenty first-grade children was estimated to have an FASD. The use of alcohol during pregnancy can be prevented, but until we have a solution to this issue, we must help those who were inadvertently affected. A task force is sorely needed to assess the prevalence and find solutions for families and individuals affected by FASD in Hawaii.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you,
Ann S. Yabusaki, PhD

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:30:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Takenouchi:

I fully support HB900, relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), a permanent brain condition when a fetus is exposed to metabolites of alcohol during pregnancy especially as it relates to creating a Task Force to accept and administer funding from the FASD Respect Act which was one vote short of passing in Washington, DC. This Bill will be reintroduced in the 2023 Legislature. The State of Hawaii lacks "understanding" individuals and families affected by FASD. Those affected impact every sector of our society (homeless, prison detainees, mental health institutions, employment, judiciary) and costs the state millions of dollars. Establishing the above Task Force would ensure funding to appropriate entities helping to help serve those with an FASD. Individuals affected by FASD cannot change and are born into an impossible world, a world that does not "understand" them. It is our responsibility In a society where alcohol consumption is a living issue, to make the world "possible" for them by society changing through "understanding" them. I urge you to pass HB900.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 2:35:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gigi V Davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 900

As a parent of a 34 year old son who went undiagnosed until 18 years old I was forced to learn all about FASD on my own and consequently became a fierce advocate. There is little to nothing available the parents, care givers and those with an FASD.

30 years is too long to see no substantive results in the way of knowledge, understanding and informed services available for this population.

Current stats indicate 1 in 20 children have an FASD most of which do not even receive a correct diagnosis for this life long brain based invisible disability. This is just plain wrong and society needs to step up to the plate and help.

I urge you to pass this legislation on behalf of all parents, caregivers and individuals struggling with an FASD in Hawaii.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Gigi Davidson

Founder

fasdcommunities.org

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 10:54:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendrick Farm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members

Please Pass out of this committee

Mahalo,

HB-900

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 1:44:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mark matsushita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

FASD affects every sector of Hawai'i's society and the costs to society are immeasurable. 94% of those affected by FASD have mental health issues; 95% cannot live independently; 80% have employment difficulties; 70% have trouble in school; 60% have trouble with the Law; 50% of adults abuse drugs and alcohol; and 45% have legal problems with sexual behaviors. These are all social determinants that can contribute and lead to homelessness and imprisonment. A major contributing factor to these statistics is many service providers are uninformed on the complexities of FASD which lead to a missed diagnosis. Please give your support for this bill in which all of Hawaii will benefit
Mark Matsushita

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapisy

Certified Substance Abuse Counselor