

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

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 2647
RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 2/10/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

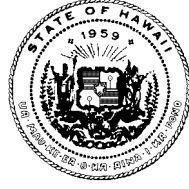
1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) will need a staff position and/or funds to
2 contract for staff to support the convening and work of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
3 (FASD) Task Force. The Department requests that passage of any appropriations in this measure
4 does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Department's supplemental
5 budget request.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department appreciates the intent of S.B. 2647, which establishes
7 a temporary FASD Task Force within the DOH and establishes a FASD special fund in the
8 Department of Human Services.

9 The Department does not have the resources to implement the requests as outlined in this
10 measure which include reviewing various guidelines and recommendations for government
11 support of individuals with FASD; developing teaching protocols; and developing pathways for
12 state departments to implement policies and procedures related to guidelines, recommendations,
13 and teaching protocols; and preparation of a legislative report.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 6, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2647 – RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS.**

Hearing: February 10, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments. The department defers to the Department of Health and respectfully requests any current appropriation into the special fund, not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish a temporary fetal alcohol spectrum disorders task force within the Department of Health for administrative purposes. Requires a report to the Legislature. 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.

The Department supports the intent of the task force to recommend guidelines, best practices, possible training curriculum for health and human services workers and educators, and teaching strategies for students with FASD. The Department also acknowledges that the

community has long advocated for more resources dedicated to individuals and families impacted by FASD.

Part III of this bill requires DHS to administer and expend the fetal alcohol spectrum disorders special fund that will consist of federal funds granted by Congress or presidential executive order. The measure appears to anticipate passage of federal H.R. 4151 or S. 2238 “Advancing FASD Research, Services and Prevention Act” or the “FASD Respect Act.” While the department appreciates the foresight, establishing a special fund at this time is premature.

Additionally, supporting a task force or commission and administering a special fund does require administrative and procurement support. As the measure progresses, DHS will update the Legislature for necessary resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2647

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 8:58:23 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	Yes

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 nexxus 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 nexxus as one might imagine.

THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2022
TIME: 3:00pm
PLACE: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
TIMESLOT: HMS

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT SB2647**

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 SB2647**

Again, I am humbly seeking your powerful support as I tirelessly pursue this volunteer work and my passion for creating services and raising awareness and education for FASD Children and Families of Hawaii. I am fortunate to have letters from our State Legislators sent to the Congressional Delegation to Capitol Hill to pursue all of our Washington, DC representatives to Co-Sponsor the FASD Respect Act. ALL of our representatives in Washington DC signed to Co-Sponsor S.2238 — 117th Congress (2021-2022) and H.R.4151 - FASD Respect Act - 17th Congress (2021-2022) Advancing FASD Research, Services, and Prevention Act or the FASD Respect Act. We need to have an action plan for our families and children with FASD in Hawaii with this inline. Our nation and the world now recognize this existing problem that needs action and support NOW.

The Federal Bill, The Respect Act, is garnering bipartisan support in Congress to fund the above areas for FASD. Our Congressional delegation has signed to co-sponsor The Respect Act, and there is a national effort to pass this legislation. The task force created by SB2647 will prepare plans and strategies to receive and apply these funds.

Hawaii lacks services. There are no FASD-informed programs dedicated to the prevention, screening, assessment, interventions, and research in Hawaii.

Effects of FASD are well known: 90% of individuals with FASD will develop comorbid mental health conditions; high rates of youth and adults with FASD struggle with independent

living and employment; many children with a diagnosis of FASD won't qualify for DD services; nearly half of the adolescents and young adults with FASD encounter the justice system.

FASD diagnosis is a processing disorder, learning disability, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorders, almost the same as Autism Spectrum Disorders (Astley, 2010; Kodituwakku & Kodituwakku, 2014). Somewhere between 1% and 4% of all children worldwide have FASD. The NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPAIRMENTS associated with FASD came WITH SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL COST ACROSS THE LIFESPAN in increased medical, educational, and vocational support lost productivity (Lupton, Burd, & Harwood, 2004; Popova, Lange, Burd, & Rehm, 2015). 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 severe as Autism.

If the national data states that 1 in 20 first graders have FASD, we can make it 1 in 1,000 - 1 in 10,000, 100,000 even in 1 in a million because FASD is COMPLETELY PREVENTABLE BY CEASING ALCOHOL USE during pregnancy. FASD is an invisible disability because it does not have visible or observable disabilities, unlike other disabilities. They look like you and me, with normal features like everyone else around us. FASD exhibits a broad array of Neurodevelopmental impairments, such as deficits of adaptive function, attention, executive function, motor function, social cognition, verbal and non-verbal learning, and externalizing behaviors. The Disability Rights Center is supportive of my advocacy and also strongly sees the FASD needs in our State of Hawaii.

SB2647 is a solution to this predicament. Please let us work together to save Our Tomorrow, Today. Let us help these innocent children born in an impossible world impacted by alcohol thrive in the possibilities of tomorrow we can all create and provide. We must make their life and world possible for them as we made alcohol legal for public consumption. Hindsight: We will save our children, women, and families of Hawaii, and also our tax dollars when you support these Bills. Often, these children with FASD are seen as children with behavioral issues in our school system and get kicked out. Eventually, these children without no support will join into crime-committing and delinquent groups who end up in our prison systems as juveniles eventually as adult offenders. This costs our State \$55,000.00 a year per inmate, not to mention that our prison system is overpopulated, and we ship our State Inmates to other States, which costs us \$35,000.00 a year per inmate. This cost does not include property damages, medical, and other costs to our tax dollars.

Mental Health Problems - 60% of children with FASD have ADDH, and most individuals have clinical depression as adults; 23% of the adults had attempted suicide, and 43% had threatened to commit suicide. • Disrupted School Experience - 43% experienced suspension or expulsion or drop out; • Trouble with the Law - 42% had involvement with police, charged or convicted of a crime; • Confinement – 60% of these children age 12 and over experienced inpatient treatment for mental health, alcohol/drug problems, or incarceration for a crime. • Inappropriate Sexual Behavior – Reported in 45% of those aged 12 and over and 65% of adult males with FAS. • Alcohol/Drug Problems – Of the adults with FAS, 53% of males and 70% of females experienced substance abuse problems. These children who have the potential to become adult offenders can cost Hawaii \$55,000.00 a year in incarceration cost and more economic

challenges in societal, property damages, and tax dollars. I do beg of you to support and consider SB2747 for the children and the families of Hawaii. BE TRUE TO YOUR PROMISE TO BE THERE FOR THE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES OF HAWAII; I TRUST IN YOU.

My dream and core aim through my advocacy are to decrease infants born with FASD in Hawaii and our Nation. Protecting Our Tomorrow Today.

Mahalo Nui Loa, for your kind consideration in passing SB2647 out of your committees and for the opportunity to testify.

Always with Gratitude.

Respectfully yours,

Darlyn Chen Scovell MA, CSAC, RBT

Reference

- Astley, S. J. (2010). Profile of the first 1,400 patients receiving diagnostic evaluations for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder at the Washington State Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Diagnostic & Prevention Network. *Canadian Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, 17(1), e132–e164.
- Barker, C., Kulyk, J., Knorr, L., & Brenna, B. (2011). Open Inclusion or Shameful Secret: A Comparison of Characters with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and Characters with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in a North American Sample of Books for Children and Young Adults. *International Journal of Special Education*, 26(3), 171–180. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com.libproxy.edmc.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=Eric&ANEJ959010&site=eds-live>
- Kodituwaku, P., & Kodituwaku, E. (2014). Cognitive and behavioral profiles of children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. *Current Developmental Disorders Reports*, 1(3), 149–160. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40474-014-0022-6>
- Thorne, J. C. 1. jct6@uw. ed. (2017). Accentuate the Negative: Grammatical errors during narrative production as a clinical marker of central nervous system abnormality in school-aged children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. *Journal of Speech, Language & Hearing Research*, 60(12), 3523–3537. <https://doi-org.libproxy.edmc.edu/10.1044/2017pass:JSLHR-L-17-01>

February 5, 2022

To: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: Strong Support of SB2647, Relating To Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Hrg: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 3:00 pm, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Position: Support

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health. My name is Ann Yabusaki from Kaneohe, Hawaii. Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB2647. I strongly support the establishment of a statewide task force to develop guidelines, recommendations, and teaching protocols for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) for the following reasons:

1. **Hawaii lacks services.** There are no FASD-informed programs dedicated to the prevention, screening, assessment, interventions, and research in Hawaii.
2. **The Federal Bill, The Respect Act,** is garnering bipartisan support in Congress to fund the above areas for FASD. Our Congressional delegation has signed to co-sponsor The Respect Act, and there is a national effort to pass this legislation. The task force created by SB2647 will prepare plans and strategies to receive and apply these funds.
3. **Effects of FASD are well known:** 90% of individuals with FASD will develop comorbid mental health conditions; high rates of youth and adults with FASD struggle with independent living and employment; many children with a diagnosis of FASD won't qualify for DD services; nearly half of the adolescents and young adults with FASD encounter the justice system.
4. **Prevalent and growing:** One in 20 first graders are affected by FASD. We must address the impact of FASD on all our care systems and, most importantly, the unimaginable costs to individuals and families affected by FASD.

As a psychologist, I am constantly searching and creating services for my clients and would greatly appreciate the help of other support systems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Ann S. Yabusaki, Ph.D., MFT

February 6, 2022

To: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Health

Re: SB2647, Relating To Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Hrg: Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 3:00 pm, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Position: Support

Good afternoon, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health. My name is Kenichi Yabusaki from Kaneohe, Hawaii. I'm honored to submit testimony in support of SB2647 for establishment of a statewide task force to develop guidelines, recommendations, and teaching protocols for FASD for the following reasons:

1. There are few if any FASD-informed prevention, screening, assessment, intervention services, and research in Hawaii for families and individuals affected by FASD. To this end, SB2647 is vital to the State of Hawaii's preparedness in planning and implementation of funds when and if the current FASD Respect Act being introduced in Washington that is gaining widespread bipartisan support become available. All four members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation have signed to co-sponsor the FASD Respect Act.
2. Individuals and families affected by FASD, a permanent lifelong brain condition impact every sector of our society; especially in the homeless, incarcerated, educational, and State Hospital. The monetary costs to Hawaii are enormous. Data from a national study (with the CDC's support) found one in twenty first grade children have an FASD (a conservative estimate). With Hawaii's annual birth rate at 17,000, each year, 50% unintended pregnancy rate, increased alcohol consumption due to the COVID pandemic (online sales of alcoholic beverages), nearly 1,000 individuals will be added to those affected by FASD each year.
3. To no fault of their own, individuals affected by FASD are alienated from an impossible world due to what's stated in Paragraph 1. Passage of the Federal FASD Respect Act and SB2746 is a Civil Rights issue manifested in the Constitution of the United States. It is our

responsibility not only as a State, but as a Nation to make the world “possible” for those affected by FASD.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and provide comments.

Respectfully,

Kenichi K. Yabusaki, Ph.D.

Davis & Sina Pili
Laie, HI 96762

LATE

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, HTH Committee
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, HMS Committee
Hawaii State Legislature
31st Legislature, 2022
Hawaii State Capital
415 So. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

RE: SB2647/HB1814- RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS;
LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB2647 & HB1814

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to set this meaningful issue on your agenda for hearings. I support SB 2647 & HB 1814. We are parents of a child diagnosed with FASD. We understand the importance to have specialist in FASD to educate, inform, and provide appropriate and correct interventions according to our child's needs. We know this because we have experienced having service providers not know or understand FASD and incorrectly service him which was damaging to his social and emotional state while creating an environment he could not thrive in because they did not understand FASD. When we took it upon ourselves to teach the service providers about his diagnosis and how to provide appropriate support according to his need & disability, we were then able to create an environment he now continues to thrive in.

We support SB 2647 and know that the FASD workforce task will mitigate that gap to inform, educate, and provide important stakeholders & state agencies that provide services to our children to help them develop and positively thrive.

Davis & Sina Pili
Parent Advocates

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
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
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 (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2647

February 10, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2647.

S.B. No. 2647 establishes a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) task force within the Department of Health; requires the FASD task force to submit a report to the Legislature; sets a dissolution date of July 1, 2023, for the FASD task force; and establishes the FASD Special Fund (SF) to be administered and expended by the Department of Human Services to provide assistance to individuals having FASD.

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

S.B. No. 2647, it is not clear if the FASDSF is needed and if the FASDSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group

Board of Directors 2021

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

Cleota G. Brown
President, Director
Community Advocate

Ken Yabusaki, Ph.D.
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Child & Family Social Work

Isaiah Aina, MBA
Director
Financial Service Professional,
Veteran

February 8, 2022

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, HTH Committee
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, HMS Committee

Hawaii State Legislature

31st Legislature, 2022

Hawaii State Capital
415 So. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

RE: SB2647/HB1814 - Relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Dear Senator Keohokalole, Senator San Buenaventura and all HTH/HMS
Committee Members:

Letter of support for HB1814 & SB2647

We, the undersigned residents of Hawaii and the Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group wholeheartedly support ***ACTION FASD*** ([HB1814 / SB2647](#)). The legislation will create a statewide FASD task force to develop guidelines and recommendations for governmental support of individuals and families affected by FASD. These bills will accelerate scientific discoveries, increase prevention and access to therapeutic rehabilitation services for pregnant women with alcohol use disorders and provide meaningful resources and relief to individuals and families living with the disorders.

We thank you for your attention to FASD and welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure the passage of these landmark legislations. If you have any questions, please contact the Hawaii FASD Action Group Legislative Team at hawaiifasdactiongroup@gmail.com

Mahalo nui loa,

President
Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders FASD Action Group
FEIN 1001234



Hawaii Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Action Group

FASD Supporters - Detailed list of addresses available upon request.

Name	Zip Code	Name	Zip Code
Creelyn Eisenberg	96761	Janet Berreman	96746
Jake Gumm	96792	Dawn Morais Webster	96825
David Nabea	96797	Sean Sullivan	96813
Duke Aiona	96786-2535	Rona Fukumoto	96817
Vivian Aiona	96786-2535	Ann Yabusaki	96744
Cheryl Kameoka	96701	Manitila Mata'u	96762
Kuli'a Aiona	96701	Irmisul Harp	96785
Kathleen Goslin	96792	Laura Ramirez	96746
Sai Aganon	96816	Jennifer Ramos	96814
Cleota Brown	96744	Kelly Young	96819
Kristine Altwies	96826	Jamie Omori	96782-3546
Gigi Davidson	96822	Saifoloi Aganon	96816
Gill Berger	96825	Mark Matsushita	96789
Jana Macy Moya	96744	Cynthia Spencer	96707
Ryan Yamamoto	96822	Julie Percell	96816
Terra Daniel	96731	Jonathan Freitas	96814
Akiko Kitsutani	96816	Pauline Mata'u	96762
Amanda Luning	96816	Davis Pili	96762
Lee Yabusaki	96744	Sina Pili	96762-1241
Kenichi Yabusaki	96744	Carl Brown	96744
		Jennifer Wisdahl	20007



SB2647 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Screening

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 10 2022: 3:00 pm : Videoconference

COMMITTEE ON H
Senator Jarrett Ke
Senator Rosalyn H

Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition supports SB2647

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.

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.

STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,
State of Hawai‘i to the Senate Committee on
Human Services and Committee on Health**

February 10, 2022

S.B. No. 2647: RELATING TO FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chair Ihara and Baker, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of the Public Defender strongly supports S.B. No. 2647, which would create a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) task force.

We have seen the negative impact that FASD has on children involved in the juvenile justice system and the very real struggles that children with FASD or even suspected of having FASD have. We support the creation of this task force and we are particularly supportive of the establishment of best practices for the diagnosis of this disorder, the creation of support systems for families raising children with this disorder, and the development of support and treatment options for children impacted by FASD. We are in need of a comprehensive plan and strategy to diagnose and treat children with FASD. We would like to see earlier diagnosis and treatment to help keep kids out of the juvenile justice system and to keep undiagnosed and untreated adults out of the adult criminal justice system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2647

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 12:52:38 PM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gigi V Davidson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am very much in support of this bill it is badly needed. Recent evidence indicates that FASD affects 1/20 kids so they are all around us. There is very little understanding of this life long invisible disability and close to new services available to this community and their loved ones. It is a long and lonely, bumpy road for parents raising children with an FASD. We need to be able to properly diagnose this population and educate all constituents of our community.

Please support this bill

Aloha

Gigi Davidson

Written Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health
in support of SB2647: Relating to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Akiko Tamura

Tuesday, February 10th, 2022. 3PM, CR225 & Videoconference.

In Support of SB2647

Dear Chair Senator San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Senator Ihara, and members of the Committee on Human Services

Dear Chair Senator Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Senator Baker, and members of the Committee on Health

My name is Akiko Tamura, a concerned citizen residing in Honolulu **District 10**, Hawaii. I'm also a graduate student at UH Manoa, MSW (Master's of Social Work) program. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in favor of SB 2647, which would establish a statewide FASD Task Force to develop guidelines and recommendations for governmental support of individuals and families affected by FASD.**

I support SB 2647 because of the impact on **the community members affected by FASD** in Hawaii, including **an individual I have been helping to secure his job status and residence** as an intern of my practicum site. He has been suffering from everyday challenges, including severe memory issues and learning difficulties from FASD. His constant struggles over forty years, **lack of family support (his mother also suffers from severe alcohol use disorder), and misunderstanding about his behaviors at school, in the foster care system, and in the community, may have contributed to his current severe mental illness.**

This bill will **1)increase scientific findings through research; 2)raise awareness amongst service providers and the general public; 3)provide necessary resources and services to individuals and families affected by FASD.** Furthermore, this bill will increase **the accessibility of prevention and therapeutic rehabilitation services to pregnant women for their alcohol intake.** Lastly, this bill will allow mental health practitioners to address **the lack of trauma-informed care amongst Native Hawaiian communities.** Recent studies show a higher prevalence of substance use, including alcohol, amongst Native Hawaiian perinatal women than the national average.

These are the reasons why **I am in favor of SB2647, relating to FASD.**

Thank you for your time.

Akiko Tamura

SB-2647

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:17:26 AM

Testimony for HTH on 2/10/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Greg Tjapkes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2647 for the establishment of a task force and special fund for those impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.