

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

March 30, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 3111 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS.**

Hearing: April 1, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the family resource centers pilot program within the Department of Human Services. Establishes 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by

- (1) Inserting an effective date of December 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion;
and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 amended the measure by

- (1) Clarifying that the pilot program's areas of responsibility include the establishment of definitions, standards, and best practices and the identification and alignment of available services, goals, and outcomes;

- (2) Requiring, rather than authorizing, the Director of Human Services to appoint a family resource centers coordinator to carry out the functions of the pilot program;
- (3) Changing the appropriation from \$350,000 to an unspecified amount to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (4) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The HD1 amended the measure by

- (1) Deleting language exempting the Family Resource Centers Coordinator from civil service requirements;
- (2) Requiring that all contracts entered into by the Departments of Human Services, Education, and Health for family resource centers be subject to the Hawaii Public Procurement Code and procurement requirements for purchases of health and human services;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2060, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Family Resource Centers play a critical role in (a) Preventing child abuse and neglect; (b) Strengthening children and families; (c) Connecting family-impacting agencies and programs; (d) Creating opportunities for community-level coordination; (e) Creating social connections to resources and support systems; and (f) Increasing family engagement, which leads to greater student success. Across the country, school- and community-based Family Resource Centers are trusted, effective, and convenient centers for families to access. A 2018 study from the University of Chicago, Chapin Hall, compared child welfare investigation rates in similar Allegheny County neighborhoods and found that those with Family Support Centers had a lower rate of child abuse and neglect investigations than similar neighborhoods without Family Support Centers.

The Department currently funds community-based Family Resource Centers as part of its broad strategy to prevent child abuse and neglect. Also, in 2020, the Kailua-Kalaheo Complex of the Department of Education started virtual school-based Family Resource Centers in four complex area schools to respond to the increased student and family needs of food, housing, transportation, and behavioral/ mental health issues magnified during the pandemic.

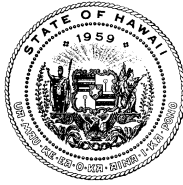
To formalize the Family Resource Center model statewide and develop a Family Resource Center network, the Department of Human Services, in partnership with the

Departments of Education and Health, proposes a five-year pilot program to engage in strategic planning that will lead to the adoption of definitions, standards, best practices, professional development, alignment of services and performance measures, and development of a referral and data sharing process. The pilot program will require funds for one FTE coordinator position and necessary resources to coordinate and develop the standardization of definitions and practices of Family Resource Centers, to develop the referral and referral tracking process in compliance with applicable federal and state law, and establish the Family Resource Centers network.

Investing in the infrastructure to develop Family Resource Center standards and networks will lead to more school- and community-based programs and services that families will more likely identify as trusted sources of information and guidance. Bringing needed services to meet families where they are, is the foundational concept and aligns with other measures.

DHS also supports HB1741 Relating To Children And Family Of Incarcerated Individuals, which proposes a similar pilot with the Department of Public Safety and community providers, and HB1941 Relating To Education, which will move toward the development of community schools. These measures aim to create and expand community hubs where families can access programs and services in familiar surroundings from those they already know and trust. In addition, these community-based models provide opportunities for families to increase social connections. Having positive social connections is an often overlooked protective factor. However, having friends and community members to turn to in a time of need is even more important during this time of reduced community activities and cautious social interactions. Coordinating our efforts will improve outcomes, increase confidence in government services, and strengthen families and communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 3111 S.D. 2, H.D.1
RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 4/1/2022

Room Number: CR 308 &
Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the Department of Human
2 Services for fiscal implications of implementation.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports S.B. 3111 S.D. 2, H.D.1
4 which is part of the Governor's Administrative Package, to implement a statewide network of
5 Family Resource Centers (FRCs).

6 Much of the foundation to prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect involves helping
7 families and communities build protective factors to mitigate risks associated with abuse and
8 neglect. Protective factors moderate risk or adversity and promote healthy development and child
9 and family well-being. FRCs are an effective and efficient means to apply protective factors by
10 providing concrete supports to parents and serving as hubs for promoting community advocacy,
11 education, and leadership. Many Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funded
12 states, including Hawaii, provide financial and other support for FRC efforts.

13 The Department of Health, Family Health Services Division, Maternal and Child Health
14 Branch, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program, that administers the federal CBCAP grant
15 to Hawaii, will continue to support FRC efforts including the FRC pilot program outlined in this
16 measure.

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

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3111, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

April 1, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 3111, S.D. 2, H.D. 1: 1) establishes the Family Resource Center (FRC) Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services (DHS) for a period of five years; 2) establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent, within DHS, to serve as the FRC Coordinator and sets the position's reporting requirements; 3) sets the purpose and operational authorities of FRCs; 4) requires DHS to develop and establish standards and criteria for FRCs in coordination with the Departments of Education and Health by December 1, 2023; and 5) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS in FY 23 to establish and implement the pilot program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**SB3111, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS.**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā
House Committee on Finance

‘Apelila 1, 2022

3:00 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike / Lumi 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB3111, SD2, HD1, Relating to Family Resource Centers. This measure establishes a five-year Family Resource Centers Pilot Program, which will allow the Departments of Human Services, Education, and Health to provide coordinated family-impacting services designed to meet the needs, cultures, and interests of communities serviced by family resource centers.

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a critical issue, particularly for Native Hawaiians because 45% or 1,238 of foster care children are Native Hawaiian.¹ Luckily, some child maltreatment is preventable, since the most prevalent type of child maltreatment is neglect, and neglect is often tied to effects of poverty.² The fact that Hawai‘i has a high family reunification rate, 62% of children who exited foster care are reunited with their families, shows there are opportunities to intervene before child welfare services become involved.³

Family resource centers may help struggling families address concerns before neglect occurs and a child must be removed by child welfare services. This type of early intervention is vital because foster care has a high emotional cost for children. When a child enters foster care, they may be separated not only from their parents, but also from their siblings, other relatives, friends, schools, extracurricular activities, and communities as a whole. Long-term placement in foster care often requires children to move to multiple foster homes, compounding disruptions in their social relationships.⁴ Youth who age out of the foster care system also have high rates of homelessness, hunger, joblessness, mental health and drug abuse disorders, justice involvement and more.⁵

¹ Hawaii Department of Human Services, Social Services Division. Data Booklet: FFY 2021 Annual Progress and Services Report. <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Attachment-A-2021-APSR-Data-Booklet.pdf>

² Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Child Maltreatment Trends: A Persistent Picture of Young Survivors and Neglect.” Report (October 2021). <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/updates/show/289-child-maltreatment-trends>

³ Social Services Division. Data Booklet (FFY 2021).

⁴ The Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Every Kid Needs A Family.” <https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-EveryKidNeedsAFamily-2015.pdf>

⁵ U.S. Administration for Children & Families. “National Youth in Transition Database Report to Congress.” (February 2020). <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/nytd-report-congress>

Family resource centers services may help mitigate some factors of maltreatment by providing child respite care, parenting classes, and support for life skills like household budgeting, stress management, nutrition, health services, and more. These services may address common precipitating incidents of victimization that the state Child Welfare Services lists in investigations, such as a parent’s inability to cope with parenting responsibility; mental health problems; inadequate housing; heavy continuous childcare responsibility; and new babies in the home.⁶ It’s important to note that unlike a majority of other states, Hawai‘i does not exempt financial inability to provide for a child from their definitions of child maltreatment.⁷

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs urges the Committee to **PASS** SB3111, SD2, HD1. Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

⁶ Note, cases could be assigned more than one type of incident. Social Services Division. Data Booklet (FFY 2021).

⁷ Sarah Catherine Williams, Reva Dalela, and Sharon Vandivere. “In Defining Maltreatment, Nearly Half of States Do Not Specifically Exempt Families’ Financial Inability to Provide.” Child Trends (February 2022). <https://www.childtrends.org/blog/in-defining-maltreatment-nearly-half-of-states-do-not-specifically-exempt-families-financial-inability-to-provide>

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

April 1, 2022

Conference Room 329

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 HD1 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 'Ohana Support Network, we **strongly support SB311 SD2 HD1** to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

Covid has pulled the curtain back on the inequities that exist for so many of our families in supporting their own success and that of their children. There is a greater need than ever to support the family protective factors (concrete support in times of need, parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social emotional well being of children and families, and social connections). Our students have increased mental health issues, lower attendance and graduation rates, and prolonged loss of academic and social opportunities.

Quality family engagement is needed in our schools and our communities to address the challenges which have been heightened through the pandemic. According to the National Family Support Network, community or school-based Family Resource Centers are welcoming hubs of support, services, and opportunities to work with families in a multi-generational, strengths-based, family-centered approach to enhance parenting skills, foster the healthy development and well-being of children and families, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, connect families to resources, develop parent and community leadership, and support early intervention.

The 'Ohana Family Support Network is a volunteer steering committee that was formed in 2020 to bring together government and non-profit organizations with a common mission to increase child and family well-being through Family Resource Centers . School based Family Resource Centers have been established in four Title I schools in the Kailua-Kalaheo Complex. In a collaboration with the seven community based Neighborhood Places, Hawai'i was able to join the National Family Support Network.

On behalf of the 'Ohana Support Network, I respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that families have the direct support they need to help their children thrive. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD

Co-Chair, 'Ohana Support Network

Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair



April 1, 2022
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of SB 3111, SD2, HD1 Relating to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports SB3111, SD2, HD1 that would establish the Family Resource Centers Pilot Program.

With families still grappling with the effects and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, Family Resource Centers (FRC) are necessary to foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families. FRC supports the whole child, connects families to resources, develops partnerships with community organizations, and builds family and community leadership. In order for students to succeed and thrive in school, families and communities must come together to make sure they have access to the relationships and resources they need.

We urge you to support this bill that would advance the work of Family Resource Centers in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Paula Adams
Executive Director
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
hawaiiafterschool@gmail.com
www.hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 HD1 Related to Family Resource Centers

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee,

Friends of the Future **strongly supports SB311 SD2 HD1** to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position ***including*** the appropriation of funds.

COVID exposed inequities so many of our families face in supporting their own success and that of their children. Supporting family protective factors (tangible support in times of need, parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social emotional wellbeing of children and families, and social connections) is absolutely critical. Our students have

Quality family engagement is needed in our schools and our communities to address our students' increased mental health issues, lower attendance and graduation rates, and prolonged loss of academic and social opportunities. The National Family Support Network reports community or school-based Family Resource Centers create welcoming hubs of support, services, and opportunities to work with families in a multi-generational, strengths-based, family-centered approach. Program activities to enhance parenting skills, foster the healthy development and well-being of children and families, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, connect families to resources, develop parent and community leadership, and support early intervention are some of the many activities available to families in Family Resource Centers.

We respectfully urge the passage of this bill so families have ready access to the direct support they need to help their children thrive. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Susan Maddox

House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

April 1, 2022
Conference Room 308

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 HD1 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Kailua High School, we strongly support SB3111 SD2 HD1 to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

Covid has put a damper on our overall ability to support our students and families as we did pre-Covid and we need to focus our efforts on their simple needs. The adaptive agenda that we have come to embrace as the "new normal" has made many underlying issues even more apparent and important to our students and families (increased mental health issues, lower attendance leading to lower overall graduation rates as well as extended loss of social and academic connections).

Genuine grassroots family engagement is needed in our communities and schools enabling us to address the challenges which have been spotlighted throughout the pandemic and beyond. Family Resource Centers are the perfect hub to offer a welcoming and supportive place for all families to identify and connect with resources enabling them to thrive, strengthen and support themselves, their Ohana and community as our Mission states. Our families include multi-generational and blended families, medical challenges, mental capacity compromises, as well as other than optimal family dynamics that our children have to navigate. Family Resource Centers provide support, prevention, strengthening and connections enabling families to face daily life head on. They deserve our love and support and Family Resource Centers are that place!

On behalf of Kailua High School, I respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that families have the direct support they need to help their children thrive with the full support of the Family Resource Centers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Diana Baldwin

Parent Community Network Coordinator &
Family Resource Center Director
Kailua High School



Date: March 30, 2022

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support Testimony for SB3111 SD2– Relating to Family Resource Centers

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

ECAS strongly supports SB3111 SD2, which would establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator, with an appropriation of funds.

Covid has illuminated the inequities that exist for so many of our families in supporting their own success and that of their children. There is a greater need than ever to support the family protective factors (concrete support in times of need, parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social emotional well-being of children and families, and social connections). Our students and youngest keiki have increased mental health issues, lower attendance and graduation rates, and prolonged loss of cognitive development and social and emotional opportunities.

According to the National Family Support Network, community or school-based Family Resource Centers are welcoming hubs of support, services, and opportunities to work with families in a multi-generational, strengths-based, family-centered approach to enhance parenting skills, foster the healthy development and well-being of children and families, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, connect families to resources, develop parent and community leadership, and support early intervention.

ECAS sees Family Resource Centers as the **critical bridge** from early childhood into the K-12 system, connecting families to community supports and assisting them through the school transition. If families have “one-stops” in their communities, we have removed many barriers they face in accessing the programs and services that they need most. Had we had this infrastructure in place during the pandemic, fewer families would have suffered and programs and services could have been streamlined.

Mahalo nui for your continued work to improve the health, safety and learning of our youngest keiki.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / kat.caphi@gmail.com



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

Friday, April 1, 2022

3:00 PM

SB 3111 SD2, HD1 - STRONG SUPPORT FOR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Yamashita and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the more than 3,993 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars¹ or under the “care and custody” of the Department of Public Safety or the corporate vendor on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,110 of Hawai`i’s imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates the opportunity to express our strong support for SB 3111 SD2, HD1 that establishes Family Resource Centers designed to meet the needs, cultures, and interests of the communities and to provide family services. This is becoming increasingly more important as many families are challenged by a parent who is incarcerated. We are pleased that DHS has been proactive in this area that needs so much attention and we mahalo them for their heart.

Family Resource Centers are vital to strengthen our struggling families with the support services they need to prevent child abuse and provide family support services needed by so many of our people, especially those from the areas most impacted by incarceration.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to support SB 3111 SD2, HD1 that will strengthen our communities!

¹ Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 14, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-14.pdf>



Hawaii
Children's Action Network Speaks!
Building a unified voice for Hawaii's children

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: Representative Luke, Chair
Representative Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: **SB 3111 SD2 HD1- relating to family resource centers**
3:00 PM, April 1, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of SB 3111 SD2 HD1, relating to family resource centers. They are an excellent model to support families and connect them to programs and services through a strengths-based perspective.

Family resource centers also support family violence prevention strategies. The services offered through resource centers develop protective factors in families and communities. Protective factors, like concrete support in times of need, social connections, and parental resilience factors, help families during difficult times. The protective factors also strengthen families, promote child well-being, and help reduce the risk factors of child abuse and neglect.¹ Funding prevention efforts helps keep our children and communities safe.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee vote favorably on SB 3111.

Thank you,
Kathleen Algire
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

¹ Center for the Study of Social Policy, *About strengthening families and the protective factors framework*, <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/About-Strengthening-Families.pdf>

SB-3111-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 2:13:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee,

I am a graduate student of social work at the Univerisity of Hawaii at Manoa.

I strongly support SB311 SD2 HD1 to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

Covid has pulled the curtain back on the inequities that exist for so many of our families in supporting their own success and that of their children. There is a greater need than ever to support the family protective factors (concrete support in times of need, parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social emotional well being of children and families, and social connections). Our students have increased mental health issues, lower attendance and graduation rates, and prolonged loss of academic and social opportunities.

Quality family engagement is needed in our schools and our communities to address the challenges which have been heightened through the pandemic. According to the National Family Support Network, community or school-based Family Resource Centers are welcoming hubs of support, services, and opportunities to work with families in a multi-generational, strengths-based, family-centered approach to enhance parenting skills, foster the healthy development and well-being of children and families, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, connect families to resources, develop parent and community leadership, and support early intervention.

I respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that families have the direct support they need to help their children thrive. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Castro

SB-3111-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 4:19:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shy Helm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Finance

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

April 1, 2022

Conference Room 308

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 HD1 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee,

I, Shy Helm, strongly support SB311 SD2 HD1 to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

Covid has pulled the curtain back on the inequities that exist for so many of our families in supporting their own success and that of their children. There is a greater need than ever to support the family protective factors (concrete support in times of need, parental resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, social emotional well being of children and

families, and social connections). Our students have increased mental health issues, lower attendance and graduation rates, and prolonged loss of academic and social opportunities.

Quality family engagement is needed in our schools and our communities to address the challenges which have been heightened through the pandemic. According to the National Family Support Network, community or school-based Family Resource Centers are welcoming hubs of support, services, and opportunities to work with families in a multi-generational, strengths-based, family-centered approach to enhance parenting skills, foster the healthy development and well-being of children and families, prevent child abuse and neglect, increase school readiness, connect families to resources, develop parent and community leadership, and support early intervention.

I respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that families have the direct support they need to help their children thrive. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Shy Helm