

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:20:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Noel Richardson | Testifying for Hawaii DOE Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School | Support | No |

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School **strongly supports SB311** 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.

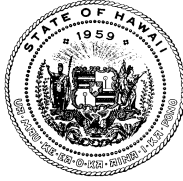
Quality family engagement is needed in our schools and our communities to address the challenges which have been heightened through the pandemic. According to the National Family Support Network, community or school-based Family Resource Centers are welcoming hubs of support, services, and opportunities 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,

Noel Richardson

Principal



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 2/24/2022

Room Number: CR 211 &
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. 1 which is
4 part of the Governor's Administrative Package, to implement a statewide network of Family
5 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



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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

February 22, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: February 24, 2022, 10:00 a.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, establish one FTE Family Resource Centers Coordinator position, and appropriate funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1) 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.

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 and HB1941 Relating To Education that will move towards 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3111, S.D. 1

February 24, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 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. 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) provides procurement exemptions for the pilot program and civil service exemption for the FRC Coordinator position; 4) sets the purpose and operational authorities of FRCs; 5) 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 6) appropriates \$350,000 in 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:

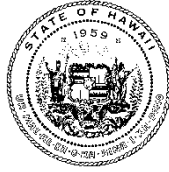
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support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



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY
OF
BONNIE KAHAKUI, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS
February 24, 2022; 10:00 a.m.

Senate Bill 3111, SD1
RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB3111, SD1. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill and provides comments due to the exemption language on page 7, SECTION 4, lines 12-15.

- (a) Contracts entered by the departments identified in subsection 3 (b) of section 3 of this Act shall be exempt from the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Whenever a contract is exempt from procurement, it compromises the spirit of the procurement Code which is to promote competition in a fair, open, and transparent manner.

HRS Chapter 103D, the Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code), and HRS Chapter 103F, Purchases of Health and Human Services, are the public procurement policies to be applied equally and uniformly, while providing fairness, open competition, a level playing field, government disclosure, and transparency in the procurement and contracting process, which are vital to good government.

Public procurement's primary objective is to provide everyone equal opportunity to compete for government contracts, to prevent favoritism, collusion, or fraud in awarding of contracts. To legislate that any one entity should be exempt from compliance of both HRS chapters 103D and 103F conveys a sense of disproportionate equality in the law's application.

Exemptions to the code mean that all procurements made with taxpayer monies will not have the same oversight, accountability and transparency requirements mandated by those procurements processes provided in the code. It means that there is no requirement for due diligence, proper planning, or consideration of protections for the state in contract terms and conditions, nor are there any set requirements to conduct cost and price analysis and market research or post-award contract management. As such, Agencies can choose whether to compete any procurement or go directly to one contractor. As a result, leveraging economies of scale and cost savings efficiencies found in the consistent application of the procurement code are lost. It also means Agencies are not required to adhere to the Code's procurement integrity laws.

The National Association of State Procurement Officials state: "Businesses suffer when there is inconsistency in procurement laws and regulations. Complex, arcane procurement rules of numerous jurisdictions discourage competition by raising the costs to businesses to understand and comply with these different rules. Higher costs are recovered through the prices offered by a smaller pool of competitors, resulting in unnecessarily inflated costs to state and local governments."

When public bodies, are removed from the state's procurement code it results in the harm described above. As these entities create their own procurement rules, businesses are forced to track their various practices. Moreover, a public body often can no longer achieve the benefits of aggregation by using another public body's contract because different state laws and regulations may apply to the various public bodies making compliance more difficult.

Each year new procurement laws are applied to state agencies causing state agency contracts to become more complex and costly, while other public bodies, such as agencies with strong legislative influence, are exempted. Relieving some public bodies from some laws by exempting or excluding them from compliance with a common set of legal requirements creates an imbalance wherein the competitive environment becomes different among the various jurisdictions and the entire procurement process becomes less efficient and costlier for the state and vendors.

Thank you.



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: Senator Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: **SB 3111 SD1- relating to family resource centers**
10:00 AM, February 24, 2022

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of SB 3111 SD1, 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>

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: SB3111 - RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT**

February 23, 2022

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

The following are reasons for STRONG SUPPORT for SB3111:

Blueprint for Change is a non-profit organization with a strong track record for innovating and implementing effective support services that address the unique challenges facing Hawai'i's 'ohana. The organization's roots date back to 1994 when in response to a growingly overburdened Child Welfare System, the Hawai'i State Legislature created the Child Welfare Services Reform Task Force for the purpose of developing a "Blueprint for reform in child protective services."

After several years of rigorous evaluation, the Committee finalized the core elements of the Neighborhood Place model (community-based Family Resource Centers), and in 2000, Blueprint for Change (BFC) was formed and incorporated as a nonprofit organization to serve as the Department of Human Services, master contractor for Neighborhood Place services and to continue the Committee's effort to improve the responsiveness of the State of Hawai'i – Child Welfare System.

By maintaining fluid relationships between state agencies, local service providers and community advocates, Blueprint for Change and the Neighborhood Place Partnership is able to significantly improve the responsiveness of the state's Child Welfare System while reducing instances of child abuse and neglect.

As a member of the Hawai'i 'Ohana Support Network, BFC acknowledges the value and alignment of Family Resource Centers (FRC) as defined by the National Family Support Network.

The National Family Support Network defines a Family Resource Center (FRC) as a community or school-based hub of support, services, and opportunities for families that:

- Utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strength-based, and family-centered
- Reflects and is responsive to community needs and interests
- Provides support at no or low cost for participants

- Enhances parenting skills
- Fosters the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families
- Prevents child abuse and neglect
- Increases school readiness
- Connects families to resources
- Supports healthy marital and couples relationships
- Promotes family economic success

The goals of a FRC are to:

- Support families to be strong, healthy, and successful
- Contribute to building a strong and healthy community
- Reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect by building the research-based Strengthening Families Protective Factors

Most FRC programs offer:

- Parenting Support
- Access to Resources
- Child Development Activities
- Parent Leadership Development

I strongly urge the committee to pass SB3111. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ways and Means Committee
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair



February 24, 2022
Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB3111 Relating to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports SB3111 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

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:27:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kathleen O'Dell | Testifying for The 'Ohana Support Network | Support | No |

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB3111 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 'Ohana Support Network, we strongly support SB311 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

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 3:01:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Diana Baldwin | Testifying for Kailua High School | Support | No |

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 22, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB311 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Kailua High School, we strongly supports SB311 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

Kailua High School

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 3:08:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Keith Kuboyama | Testifying for Family Programs Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB311 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

Family Programs Hawaii **strongly supports SB3111-SD1** to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

Inequities 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). Recent research has shown that 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 in 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.

We 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,

Keith Kuboyama, LCSW

President and CEO

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:53:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Shy Helm | Testifying for Blueprint for Change | Support | No |

Comments:

Shy Helm

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB311 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

Shy Helm **strongly supports SB311** 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

LATE

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 10:08:15 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Heidi Teraoka | Testifying for Neighborhood Place of Kona | Support | No |

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB311 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

Neighborhood Place of Kona **strongly supports SB311** to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

COVID-19 has revealed the inequities that exist for many families in our community 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.

Neighborhood Place of Kona respectfully urges 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,

Heidi Teraoka

Executive Director

Neighborhood Place of Kona

808-331-8777

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 3:16:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chuan Chinn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

February 24, 2022

Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB311 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

My name is Chuan Chinn. I am a faculty at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education and principal investigator of the Hawaii Statewide Family Engagement Center. My testimony is submitted as an individual and not as a representative of the University of Hawai'i.

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

The inequities that exist for so many of our families in supporting their own success and that of their children have been exposed and magnified by COVID-19. There is a greater need than ever to support the family wellbeing using a systemic approach through agency coordination and community engagement. Our students have increased mental health issues, lower attendance and graduation rates, and prolonged loss of academic and social emotional learning 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.

Some foundation has been laid in our state with the establishment of the 'Ohana Family Support Network 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.

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,

Chuan Chinn

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:14:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Malia Daraban | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full support of this bill as it will help families in unmeasurable ways to help families help themselves.

Mahalo nui,

Malia Daraban

SB-3111-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:03:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/24/2022 10:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Remote Testimony Requested |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sarah Gudmunson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To: The Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Bill SB3111 - Relating to Family Resource Centers

Hearing: February 24, 2022, 10 am in Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference

Aloha, my name is Sarah Gudmunson and I am writing to voice my support for Bill SB3111. I am a resident on the island of Maui and work in the field of human services. I have an associates degree in human services and am pursuing my bachelor's degree in social work. On Maui, I work at a substance use treatment center for women and children and I witness firsthand the desperate need there is in our community for family strengthening programs. As we are all aware, children are vulnerable to their environments, which are created by their families. We have learned from the ACEs studies that events which take place in childhood greatly impact the child's future. We have also learned about the importance of protective factors, which help to improve the functioning of children academically, socially, and mentally. Although we cannot completely eliminate traumatic or unfortunate events, we can help to offset the effects of these situations by providing as many protective factors as possible for the children in our community. One of the most effective protective factors we can offer children is a strong familial support system. Our community has a desperate need for a program which will emphasize strong cultural and moral values while providing a safe environment for families to learn and grow together.

The children in our community represent our future and therefore the costs associated with this endeavor should be viewed as an investment. Therefore, I stand in support of Bill SB3111 as I stand in support of our keiki. Mahalo for taking the time to read and consider my words.

Sarah Gudmunson

sarahgud@hawaii.edu

For more information regarding the long-lasting and detrimental effects of adverse childhood experiences and the importance of protective factors, please consider reading the following article by the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/riskprotectivefactors.html>

**Alison T. Masutani
47-110 Kopili Place
Kāneʻohe, HI 96744**

February 24, 2022

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Conference Room 211

RE: Support of SB3111 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee,

I would like to express my strong support to SB3111 to establish and fund a Family Resource Center pilot program and one (1) FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position.

COVID-19 has further revealed the inequities that exist for so many of our families that are roadblocks to their success and that of their children. We have seen our students suffer from 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. Families have a critical need of support on the protective factors, i.e. 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.

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.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Alison T. Masutani