

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 3/22/2022

Room Number: CR 329 &
Videoconference

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

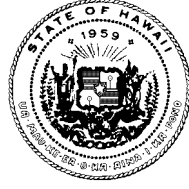
3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports S.B. 3111 S.D. 2 which is
4 part of the Governor's Administrative Package, to implement a statewide network of Family
5 Resource Centers (FRCs).

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

March 20, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 22, 2022, 9:30 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 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 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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.

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.

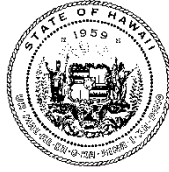
The Department currently funds community-based Family Resource Centers as part of its broad strategy to prevent child abuse and neglect. Also, in 2020, the Kailua-Kalaheo Complex of the Department of Education started virtual school-based Family Resource Centers in four complex area schools to respond 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 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.



**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 HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS
March 22, 2022; 9:30 a.m.

SENATE BILL 3111, SD2
RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB3111, SD2. The State Procurement Office (SPO) supports the intent of the bill and provides comments due to the exemption language on page 7, SECTION 3, lines 17-20.

- (a) Contracts entered into by the departments identified in subsection 3 (c) of section 2 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.

Recommend the exemption language be removed:

- (a) Contracts entered into by the departments identified in subsection 3 (c) of section 2 of this Act shall be ~~exempt from the requirements of~~ procured pursuant to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

HRS Chapter 103D, the Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code), is the single source of public procurement policy 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 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 with both HRS chapter 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: Representative Yamane, Chair
Representative Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness

Re: **SB 3111 SD2- relating to family resource centers**
9:30 AM, March 22, 2022

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members,

On behalf of Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in support of SB 3111 SD2, 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>

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

March 22, 2022

Conference Room 329

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 'Ohana Support Network, we **strongly support SB311 SD2** 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-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 5:24:21 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Richardson	Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

March 22, 2022

Conference Room 329

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee,

Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School strongly supports SB311 SD2 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.

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,

Noel Ricahardson

Principal

WEIS

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

March 22, 2022
Conference Room 329

RE: Support of SB311 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Kailua High School, 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 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

Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair



March 22, 2022
Conference Room 329

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

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the committee

The Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance supports SB3111, SD2 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

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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



COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian Tam, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

9:30 AM

STRONG SUPPORT - SB 3111 SD2 - FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam 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 HD1 of the more than 3,997 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety 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 that establishes Family Resource Centers designed to meet the needs, cultures, and interests of the communities served by the Family Resource Center; family services, including family preservation services and the identification of community support systems, may be delivered directly to a family at a family resource center by family resource center staff or by providers who contract with or have provider agreements with the family resource center, or with any of the departments identified in this section; and each family resource center may have one or more family advocates who screen and assess a family's needs and strengths. If requested by the family, the family advocate may assist the family with setting its own goals and, together with the family, develop a written plan for the family to pursue the family's goals while working toward attaining a greater level of self-reliance or self-sufficiency through the pursuit of education, job training, or employment.

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.

Community Alliance on Prisons urges the committee to support SB 3111 SD2.

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>

TO: House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

RE: SB3111 SD2 - RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, 9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and members of the committee.

My name is Shayne Kukunaokalā Yoshimoto and I am the Executive Director of Blueprint for Change which 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 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Date: March 21st, 2022

To: House Committee on Health, Human Services and Homelessness
Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, 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 support to improve the health, safety and learning of our youngest keiki's We appreciate you supporting **SB3111 SD2!**

SB-3111-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:38:39 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Daraban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill!

SB-3111-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 11:47:16 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State of Hawai'i has ample resource centers - and an ample amount of corruption within those resource centers to prove it. We don't need to build new ones. We need to audit the existing ones and empower the organizations that are already doing well - and by more than simple statistics. Resource centers are also money laundering centers. Take Ka Hale A Ke Ola for example - they received state and federal grants based upon statistics of the demographics that they serve. But did you know that at least a third of those figures come from the same families that are kicked out for 7 days, then allowed back in? Where as one family makes the difference of serving ten people on the charts - the statistics that do not show this pattern, appear as though a wider portion of the community is being served, when it is the same clientele in a rotating position - in and out, again and again.

No, we do not need extra entities. We need to clean house and fix the ones that we already have. The disparities are coming from lackluster management that is wrongly being called leadership.

SB-3111-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:31:58 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna S Iwaishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

March 22, 2022

Conference Room 329

RE: Support of SB3111 SD2 Related to Family Resource Centers

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee,

As an educator with 22 years of teaching in a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, I **strongly support SB311 SD2** to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE Family Resource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

In *Effective Practices in Early Childhood Education: Building a Foundation*, Sue Bredekamp (2019) emphasizes the importance of reciprocal relationships and partnerships between educators and families through family-centered practices including mutual respect and trust; regular, frequent two-way communication; collaborations, shared decision making and shared power; and negotiation of conflicts toward win-win situations. The concept of reciprocal relationships and partnerships is further extended in *Patterns of Practice* (Brown et. al., 2016), which focuses on the cumulative benefit of collaboration between families, schools, community partners, advocates, and other public/private agencies to support the development of the whole child from early childhood through high school. In *Critical Practices for Anti-Bias Education (Teaching Tolerance, 2018)*, critical practices in the areas of instruction, classroom culture, family and community engagement, and educator leadership are depicted in relation to the four domains of anti-bias education (identity, diversity, justice, and action). Engaging families is the common call for action among the works cited above to promote equity, embrace diversity, and empower all stakeholders in order for children to succeed in school and life.

High quality family engagement could combat challenges such as poverty, homelessness, and intergenerational trauma (and other ACEs) by increasing their resilience through provision of programs and services and to build community. According to the National Family Support Network, 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.

Urie Bronfenbrenner's renowned Bioecological Model of Child Development (1994) details concentric circles of systems that interact with each other to shape children's development. As an educator with direct interactions with children and families, I am at the core of children's microsystem and mesosystem. As legislators without direct interactions with children, you are firmly enmeshed in children's exosystem and macrosystem because you have the power to impact children's lives through your decisions. Together, we can interconnect the systems we function within by developing Family Resource Centers that would not only benefit children and families, but consequently society as a whole as their strengthening and successes proliferate to become the norm.

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

Sincerely,

Donna S. Iwaishi

Early Childhood Educator

SB-3111-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:20:23 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fuli Soa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and members of the Committee,

I strongly support SB3111 SD2 to establish a Family Resource Center pilot program and a FTE FamilyResource Center Coordinator position as well as the appropriation of funds.

I have the privilege of being the Parent Coordinator at Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate school and also part of our school Family Resource Center. The impact that COVID has had on our school community has been immense. Many of our families are low income and face many economic hardships many of which have only been elevated during the Pandemic.

Our Family Resource Center has played and continues to play an important role in providing physical, mental and spiritual support for school 'ohana. We provide access to services in the community from food distribution, housing, rent or language services. Through donations from our school staff, students and also the wider community we have been able to provide free clothing, household goods for our 'ohana. At the same time the FRC has become a place where families can meet for family workshops and just to talk story and find help.

To be able to offer similar services throughout our state would be amazing and it would provide crucial support for all 'ohana who may need it. Encouraging and uplifting our 'ohana can only do the same for their keiki and would inevitably have a positive effect on their success in school.

That is why, I respectfully urge the passage of this bill so that all our 'ohana in Hawai'i nei can thrive.

Thank-you for the opportunity to testify.

Fuli Soa

Parent Coordinator,

Waimanalo Elementary & Intermediate school Family Resource Center.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &
HOMELESSNESS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3111, S.D. 2

March 22, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Room 329 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: 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 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.