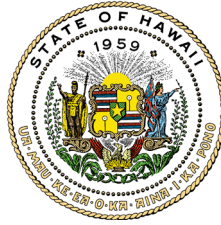


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 406
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2831

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1263, HD1
Relating to the HAWAII ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE LISA KITAGAWA, VICE CHAIR

Testimony of Caroline Cadirao
Director, Executive Office on Aging
Attached Agency to the Department of Health

Hearing Date: February 23, 2023
1:30 PM

Room Number: 308
Via videoconference

- 1 **EOA's Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department
- 2 of Health, **supports HB1263, HD1**, relating to the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program.
- 3 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure appropriates \$100,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be
- 4 deposited into the Hawaii ABLE Savings program trust fund and establishes one full-time
- 5 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent position within the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- 6 (DD Council).
- 7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill appropriates state funds into the Hawaii
- 8 ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund and establishes a full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent
- 9 position within DD Council to provide statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship
- 10 management for the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. By supporting the program with one (1.0)
- 11 FTE position, DD Council will be able to provide the necessary outreach and education about the

- 1 program and its benefits to the approximately **23,000** individuals with developmental disabilities
- 2 in Hawaii to be able to save money for their futures.
- 3 **Recommendation:** EOA strongly supports this measure provided that its enactment does not
- 4 reduce or replace priorities with the Administration's budget request.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543
February 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
The Thirty-Second Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1263 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1263 HD1**, which authorizes the Director of Finance to use funds deposited into the Hawai'i ABLE savings program trust fund for any expenses incurred in developing and administering the Hawai'i ABLE savings program. Establishes a position within the state council on developmental disabilities of the department of health to support the Hawai'i ABLE savings program. Appropriates funds.

Act 206 of Hawaii Session Laws of 2015 enacted the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program. The ABLE Savings Program is modeled after 529 (Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code) college savings plans, where interest earned on savings will be tax-free. It allows individuals with disabilities the same types of flexible savings account that people without disabilities have, such as college savings accounts, health savings accounts, and individual retirement accounts. Furthermore, an ABLE account would enable individuals with a disability to accrue funds to pay for a variety of expenses, such as medical and dental care, education, community-based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing, and transportation.

There are approximately 23,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in the State of Hawaii who are eligible to open an ABLE Savings Program and an estimate of another 20,000 individuals with other disabilities who are eligible for an ABLE Savings Program. However, we currently have less than 75 individuals enrolled in the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. Throughout the past two years, the Council has been providing outreach to promote the Hawaii ABLE Savings program. We have learned many agencies, families and eligible individuals have been misinformed about ABLE Accounts, "it sounds too good to be true, what's the catch" is what we often hear. For years, they have been told do not allow your savings to go above \$2,000 or you will lose your state and federal funding supports. In addition, the only way to sign up for an ABLE account is online. Many individuals do not feel comfortable providing their personal information online. The Council will spend time with a qualified individual or their family member to explain the process and then additional time to walk them through the process of signing up online.

The \$100,000 in a special fund is to be used in case of an audit. These funds would not need to be recurring, it would be a one time fund. The full time staff position would be devoted to statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawaii ABLE savings program, the program we will grow. Growing the use of these accounts also requires continued

Honorable Representative Yamashita, Chair
February 23, 2023
HB1263 HD1 - Support
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education for a population that has been told for decades that if they worked or saved any money they would lose everything; their home, their income, their services, and their supports. This job position is undoing decades of misinformation for our most vulnerable population who we are trying to re-educate and get into our workforce. The funding for this position would come from the general fund and would be recurring.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of HB1263 HD1.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

1010 Richards Street, Room 118 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V) • TTY (808) 586-8162 • Fax (808) 586-8129

February 23, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

House Bill 1263 HD1 – Relating to the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 1263 HD1 – Relating to the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program.

This would authorize the Director of Finance to use funds deposited into the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program Trust Fund for any expenses incurred in developing and administering the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program and establish a position within the State Council on Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Health to support the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program.

DCAB believes that dedicating a permanent position to statewide outreach, advocacy, and relationship management for the Hawai'i ABLE Savings Program should help people with disabilities understand the benefits of this program and increase participation by people with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

HB-1263-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:18:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

We are in support.

HB-1263-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 4:29:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-chair, and members of the Finance Committee

I fully support the passage of HB1263 as it relates to tapping into the ABLE funds to help Developmentally Disabled (DD) populations. Individuals with DDs have enormous obstacles to overcome, and their conditions are often poorly understood. Thus, they are left in the dark. I desire those defined as DD will include those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), another group of individuals through no fault of their own need DD services. Please consider the passage of HB1263. Thank you.

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.