



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1296 H.D. 1
RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

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

Hearing Date: 3/15/23

Room Number: CR 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed measure appropriates funds out of the general revenues of
2 the State for fiscal year 2023-2024 to the Department of Health (DOH) for expenses of the early
3 intervention services working group. The Department defers to the Governor's Executive
4 Biennium Budget Request for appropriation priorities.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure. This bill establishes an early
6 intervention services working group within the DOH to study and recommend strategies to assist
7 and support deaf and hard of hearing children, including best practices in early intervention and
8 education and implementation strategies.

9 The DOH Early Intervention Section (EIS) provides services as mandated by Part C of the
10 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for children from birth to age 3 years with
11 developmental delays or who have a health condition with a risk for developmental delay.
12 Establishing an early intervention services working group would assist EIS in identifying
13 strategies/best practices to support young deaf and hard of hearing children in developing oral
14 and/or sign language so that they have the language and communication skills needed for
15 learning in school.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

17 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully requests three additional members for the
18 working group: (1) A representative of the Early Intervention Section of the DOH; (2) A parent

- 1 of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing under age 5 years who is receiving or has received early
- 2 intervention services; and (3) A representative of the Executive Office on Early Learning
- 3 (EOEL), to be appointed by the Director of EOEL.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 13, 2023

TO: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 1296 H.D. 1 – RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Time: 1:00 pm
Location: Conference Room 225

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support with Comments

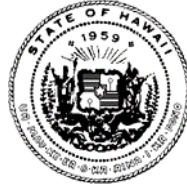
EOEL supports H.B. No. 1296 H.D. 1, respectfully makes a recommendation, and defers to the Department of Health (DOH) regarding implementation.

EOEL works with stakeholders to establish a system that ensures a solid foundation of early childhood development and learning for Hawaii's children from prenatal to age five. The Office respectfully requests that a parent of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and a representative of EOEL, to be appointed by the Director of EOEL, be listed as additional members of the working group.

Establishing an early intervention services working group would assist DOH EIS in identifying strategies to support young deaf and hard of hearing children in developing communication skills needed to enhance their development and learning. We look forward to continuing to work with other stakeholders and departments to continue strengthening the systems of support for our youngest keiki across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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March 14, 2023

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

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1296 HD1](#) - RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.

HEARING: Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 225 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this bill, makes recommendations, and defers to the Department of Health on implementation.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes an early intervention services working group within the Department of Health to study and recommend ways to assist and support deaf and hard of hearing children, including implementation strategies. Requires report to legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1) The HD1 defected the effective date and made technical amendments.

Each year DHS, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), provides vocational rehabilitation services to over 200 Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients statewide. Many of these clients did not have early intervention services when they were young. Research shows that early intervention has a very positive impact on a child's development and children's academic performance. We understand early intervention services will significantly positively impact future clients accessing DVR's program services designed to support the needs of Hawaii's residents who identify as Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The Department also recommends including Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals and parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children as members of the Work Group. As drafted, there are no Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals or parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children identified in the Work Group. Although the Work Group may appoint additional members and a representative of a Deaf and Hard of Hearing organization is on the Work Group, including this critical population will be invaluable to developing effective strategies to address needed support and implementing best practices for early intervention services.

If the measure passes, DHS will participate in the working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.