



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1296  
RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: 2/10/2023

Room Number: CR 329

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.

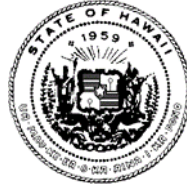
9 The DOH Early Intervention Section (EIS) provides services as mandated by Part C of the  
10 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for children from birth to age 3 years with  
11 developmental delays or who have a health condition with a risk for developmental delay.  
12 Establishing 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 two additional members for the  
18 working group: (1) A representative of the Early Intervention Section of the DOH; and (2) A

- 1 parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing under age 5 years who is receiving or has
- 2 received early intervention services.

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  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1296 - RELATING TO EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES.**

HEARING: Friday, February 10, 2023, 10:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of 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 a report to Legislature. Appropriates moneys.

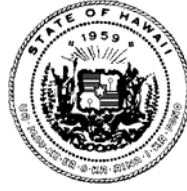
Each year DHS, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), provides vocational rehabilitation services to over 200 Deaf and Hard of Hearing clients statewide. Many of these clients did not have early intervention services when they were young. Research shows that early intervention has a very positive impact on 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 on the working group.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

**HB-1296**

Submitted on: 2/10/2023 2:12:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/10/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Elento	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness,

HB1296 Relating to Early Intervention, 02-10-2023

Comments for your consideration:

1. Add "speech disorders or speech difficulties." Services such as assistive technology and simultaneous communication (signing plus speech) are needed.
2. Consider implications of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II Effective Communication requirements and Section 504 of the Rehab. Act. K.M. v. Tustin.
3. Specify parents as members.
4. The Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council is mandated by the IDEA. The Council is also federally-funded with required duties and authorized activities. I believe the IDEA designed this Council to use its resources and do what this bill proposes for early intervention services (0-5). Hawaii's description for HEICC is missing functions required by the IDEA.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-III/part-303/subpart-G>

5. Consider the IDEA Part C Option that allows Hawaii to use IDEA funds for parents to choose to extend early intervention services for their children who also become eligible for special education preschool services, in lieu of special education preschool services for a specified time until ready for kindergarten.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and comments.

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-34/subtitle-B/chapter-III/part-303/subpart-G>