



HB794 HD1
RELATING TO HOUSING
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

March 1, 2023

2:00 PM

Room 325

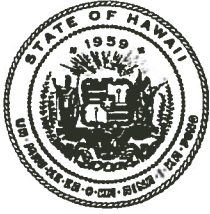
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB794 HD1**, which would designate the month of October as “Disability Awareness Month: Employment, Enrichment, and Inclusion” in recognition of the employment challenges and success of persons with disabilities in the State.

OHA is the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians.¹ Native Hawaiians face numerous health disparities, which include a myriad of disabilities. OHA takes care to note that at least 11.2% of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children experience at least one developmental disability, with almost one-third of these children experiencing more than one. Almost half of these families are low income with an annual household income less than 200% of the federal poverty level. Children with developmental disabilities are more likely to have a health issue.²

OHA appreciates the opportunity to support **HB794 HD1** and urges the Legislature to pass this measure in the hope of providing greater awareness and support for individuals and families facing disability and different ability. Mahalo nui loa.

¹ HRS §10-3.

² Thomas Elliott, Kortney Floyd James, Karen Coleman, *Cross-sectional Comparison of Disparities by Race Using White vs Hispanic as Reference Among Children and Youths With Developmental Disabilities Referred for Speech Therapy*, Oct. 4, 2022, available at <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/article-abstract/2797027>.



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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March 1, 2023

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

House Bill 794 HD1 – Relating to Disability Awareness

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Bill 794 HD1 – Relating to Disability Awareness. This bill would designate the month of October as "Disability Awareness Month: Employment, Enrichment, and Inclusion" in recognition of the employment challenges and successes of persons with disabilities in the State.

Disability Awareness Month is an opportunity to educate the public about disability employment issues and celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities. In addition, awareness will reinforce the value and talent people with disabilities add to our workplaces and affirm the State's commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRBY L. SHAW
Executive Director

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 7:17:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

Rep. Sonny Ganaden	Rep. Greggor Ilagan
Rep. Daniel Holt	Rep. Sam Satoru Kong
Rep. Troy N. Hashimoto	Rep. John M. Mizuno
Rep. Linda Ichiyama	Rep. Kanani Souza

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 1, 2023
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

POSITION: **STRONG SUPPORT HB 794 HD1**

Dearest Chair, Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas and Vice Chair, Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, and Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee members.

I am Darlyn Chen Scovell, a volunteer advocate for families and children with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and the Hawaii FASD Action Group. Being the voice of children who have none and individuals with FASD who have been marginalized, unrecognized, and without help, attention, and services for many, many years. I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB 794 HD1**

I am again pleading and humbly requesting your VOTE, SUPPORT, and PASS HB 794 HD1 out of your committee—this measure’s goal of supporting and bringing awareness to our working-age disability that includes the FASD population. People with disabilities still face disparities in our workforce and, on average, earn less per year than their peers. Our intellectual and developmental disability population still faces challenges finding gainful employment and face unnecessary barriers to our workforce in Hawai’i.

These individuals are born in an impossible world ~ Please let us make this world possible for them.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

Always with Gratitude.
Respectfully yours,
Darlyn Chen Scovell

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 1:01:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zhizi Xiong	CARES	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CARES testifies in strong support. It is critical to support the disabled population by educating the general public and raising awareness about disabilities.

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 4:23:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support HB794, HD1 to designate the month of October as "Disability Awareness Month" to ensure Inclusion, Employment and Enrichment is recognized as it relates to employment challenges and successes of persons with disability in Hawaii.

It is time to recognize the disability community and support this stellar group, as they will help to move Hawaii forward and help our economy.

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 7:01:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am providing testimony in support of HB794, HD1 which designates the month of October as "Disability Awareness Month: Employment, Enrichment, and Inclusion" in recognition of the employment challenges and successes of persons with disabilities in the State.

This bill will confirm the State's support of Hawaii's disability community, who at times feel forgotten or even invisible to society.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony in support of this important measure.

February 27, 2023

TO:

To: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

RE: HB794 HD1 RELATING TO DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH

Hearing Date: March 1, 2023

Conference Room 325 – 2:00 PM (via videoconference)

Most Honorable Chair Tarnas; Vice-Chair Takayama; and Committee Members:

I support HB794 HD 1.

In 2021, President Joseph Biden signed a Proclamation on National Disability Employment Awareness Month, making October of that year a month to celebrate workers with disabilities who have overcome challenges many of us would find difficulty in surmounting.

Now, every October the Federal Government “celebrates the differences that make each of us unique as we build diverse, inclusive workplaces where all employees, including workers with disabilities, are recognized and fully accepted.”

I believe having the State of Hawaii follow suit with the Federal Government (as HB794 HD1 indicates) in declaring October of each year a month whereby the State would bring awareness of the courage and commitment of disabled employees, the obstacles they encounter and the achievements and contributions they provide would be cause for a worthy celebration.

Please vote affirmatively for Bill HB794 HD 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Christine Olah

Honolulu Resident

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 8:32:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dale A. Head	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Committees - CA/HLT, JHA. Hearing HB794 HD1

Description - Designates the month of October as "Disability Awareness Month: Employment, Enrichment, and Inclusion" in recognition of the employment challenges and successes of persons with disabilities in the State. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this Bill. I am age 74 and reside with a 100% disabled veteran, same age as I am, and, a 97 years old WWII Army Veteran (combat infantry). These good people are 'Living Treasures' and deserve to be recognized for their contributions to society.

Respectfully, Dale Arthur Head. [dale.head@aol.com]

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 11:56:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judi Steinman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote aye for this bill! There is so much to do to raise awareness about disabilities. Honoring those with disabilities who succeed in life will go a long way to inspire others who may feel their disability diminishes them in some way. Mahalo for your aye vote

HB-794-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:59:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/1/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inam Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am Inam Ikeda Rahman Perreira. I have been a private practicing Physician in Hawaii for 30 years. I strongly support HB 784 to recognize October as Disability Awareness Month.

Having several disabled patients myself, I have experienced that many of them are depressed due to their pain and sufferings and they still continue to work. Many of them do to help community and others to support their families.

We must recognize disabled for their dedication, courage and for being a very productive person to the society. Recognizing their dedication will increase their morale, help them cope with their depression and encourage others to join them. Again, I respectfully request that HB784 should be passed for the good it carries.

Mahalo

Inam Ikeda Rahman Perreira MD