



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA**  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
March 22, 2024

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senator Buenaventura and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: SCR 177/SR153 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE TO WORK WITH THE STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO ENHANCE THE ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM BY PROMOTING IT TO ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY QUALIFY.**

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SCR177/SR153**, which requests the Department of Budget and Finance to collaborate with our council to enhance the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program by extending its promotion to all potentially eligible individuals.

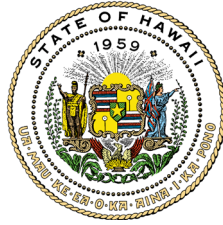
Our collaborative efforts with the Department of Budget and Finance have been steadfast, as evidenced by our support for HB2556 and SB3003, both of which are intricately linked to enhancing the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. As we approach 2026, when the onset age of disability is slated to increase to 46, the importance of disseminating information about the program's benefits and eligibility criteria cannot be overstated. It is imperative that both current and prospective qualifiers are well-informed about the opportunities afforded by the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program.

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities deeply values collaborative endeavors aimed at promoting and incentivizing the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. Through inclusive practices and heightened awareness, we aim to empower individuals with disabilities to reach their highest level of independence with confidence.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **in strong support of SCR177/SR153.**

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus, Executive Administrator



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

**KENNETH FINK, MD, MGA, MPH**  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**CAROLINE CADIRAO**  
DIRECTOR  
Executive Office on Aging

Telephone  
(808) 586-0100

Fax  
(808) 586-0185

**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

**LATE**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR177/SR153  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM**

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

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

Hearing: Friday, March 22, 2024, 1:00 P.M., Conference Room 225

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **supports** SCR 177/ SR153.
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This resolution requests the Department of Budget and Finance to
- 4 work with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to enhance the Hawai'i Able Savings
- 5 program by promoting it to all individuals who may qualify. There are approximately 23,000
- 6 individuals with developmental disabilities in the State of Hawai'i who are eligible to open an
- 7 ABLE Savings Program and another estimate of 20,000 individuals with other disabilities who
- 8 are eligible for the ABLE Savings Program. An ABLE account would enable individuals with a
- 9 disability to save money to pay for necessary expenses, such as medical and dental care,

1 education, community-based supports, employment training, assistive technology, housing, and  
2 transportation.

3 Promoting the program would allow more people to learn about the program, which would  
4 increase participation and grow the program. EOA appreciates the legislature's efforts to  
5 encourage collaboration between Budget and Finance and DD Council to achieve this goal.

6 **Recommendation:** EOA supports this measure and defers to Budget and Finance and the DDC  
7 for implementation.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SCR-177**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:19:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louis Erteschik	Testifying for Hawaii Disability Rights Center	Support	In Person

Comments:

ABLE is a great program and we support all efforts to make it more available to people with disabilities.

**SCR-177**

Submitted on: 3/21/2024 12:54:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaili	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill because people with disability who have an able account can save it their money without hurting their social security allowance please pass this bill thank you.