



**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

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair  
House Committee on Human Services  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Marten and Committee Members:

**SUBJECT: SCR177 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**, 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.

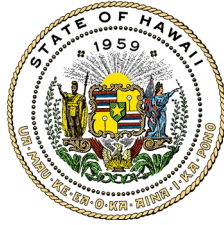
Our collaborative efforts with the Department of Budget and Finance have been steadfast, as evidenced by our support for HB2556 and SB3003, both of which are intricately linked to enhancing the Hawaii ABLE Savings Program. As we approach 2026, when the onset age of disability is slated to increase to 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 Hawai'i 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.

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**  
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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 SCR177**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM**

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
REP. LISA MARTEN, CHAIR  
REP. TEREZ AMATO, VICE CHAIR

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

Hearing: Thursday, April 11, 2024, 11:00 A.M., Conference Room 329

- 1 **EOA Position:** The Executive Office on Aging (EOA), an attached agency to the Department of
- 2 Health (DOH) **supports** SCR 177.
- 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 the 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: 4/8/2024 8:31:38 PM

Testimony for HUS on 4/11/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are in support. The Department needs to work closer with the DD Council to pursue greater enrollment. ABLE is a great program but is underutilized.



**LATE**

April 10, 2024

Senate Committee on Human Services

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Committee Members:

**Testimony In Support of SCR 177**, 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.

**Hearing Date:** April 11, 2024, 11:00 am

**Location:** Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Lanakila Pacific strongly supports SCR177, requesting the Department of Budget and Finance work with the state Council on Developmental Disabilities to Enhance the ABLE Savings Program by promoting it to all individuals who may qualify. Ensuring both current and prospective qualifiers for the program are well-informed about the opportunities afforded by the ABLE Savings Program reflect the mission and values of Lanakila Pacific. We seek to help individuals with disabilities live independently and the ABLE Savings Program is an important tool for making independence possible.

We are proud to testify in support of SCR177. Thank you for allowing us to testify and for your consideration of the request.

Sincerely,

Rona Yagi Fukumoto  
President & CEO

**SCR-177**

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 10:13:45 AM

Testimony for HUS on 4/11/2024 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Some individuals with developmental disabilities require their parent or caregiver to become aware of programs such as ABLE Accounts and services for them as they may not be able to do such.

As a parent I've learned about ABLE but still haven't set up one. Personal assistance and information delivered to all parties often is a necessity.

Thank you for your consideration to support this measure.