



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony COMMENTING on S.C.R. 15
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE
HAWAII'S HOME VISITING PROGRAM

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
RUSSELL E. RUDERMAN, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR

Hearing Date: February 19, 2020

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) respectfully offers comments on
3 S.C.R. 15 which urges the Department to continue expanding and improving its home visiting
4 services reinstating a statewide network of evidence based services for families at highest risk for
5 child abuse and neglect.

6 The Department currently provides home visiting services in all four (4) counties, on six (6)
7 islands utilizing three (3) different nationally recognized evidence based home visiting models
8 including: Health Families America (HFA), Parents as Teachers (PAT), and Home Instruction
9 for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI).

10 Through its Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) federal grant and
11 state funding, the Department is required to submit a needs assessment by September 30, 2020.
12 The federally required statewide needs assessment on home visiting services is underway and
13 once completed, the Department will have up-to-date data to identify potential new initiatives,
14 new geographic areas in the state that could benefit from home visiting services, and
15 opportunities for collaboration with community partners to strengthen and expand home visiting
16 services for at-risk families.

- 1 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



TO: Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and Chair Baker, Vice Chair Change and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: February 19, 2020; 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 016

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR 15 and SR 16 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE HAWAII'S HOME VISITING PROGRAM.

We agree with the legislature's findings and strongly support this concurrent resolution. We work collaboratively with the Department of Health. Its early intervention and home visiting programs, like Healthy Start, for Hawaii's keiki and families plays a critical role in strengthening families and we strongly support the expansion of these programs. In 2018, Hawaii received \$3.8M in federal MIECHV funding for home visiting services through the Department of Health to support the positive growth of our keiki and families and expanded DOH's reach to potentially serve over 1,700 participants.

Every keiki in Hawaii deserves a safe and nurturing home.

Early childhood neuroscience is clear that the first 1,000 days of each life provides the foundation for future development. Working with parents and their keiki at an early age to promote healthy child development, school readiness, nurturing parenting skills, and reduce toxic family stress is critical for future success. As a provider of child abuse prevention programs including early intervention and home visiting services in Hawaii, Parents And Children Together encourages the continued support to sustain quality programs that strengthen families, mitigate risk factors and increase protective factors. Child abuse prevention programs have played a critical role in ensuring that parents and keiki get the support they need to help them create strong foundations needed to build upon for future success. These programs provide quality care for both a child along with their family during the most critical years of a child's development increasing future health, educational, social and emotional development for a child and their entire family network.

We hope that Hawaii continues to make investments in early intervention and home visiting programs, especially to leverage federal funding. Investments in early intervention and prevention programs can provide great future value for our communities with cost savings in areas such as health, welfare assistance and special education services down the road. An investment in early intervention and family strengthening programs is an investment in the healthy futures of our keiki and families in Hawaii.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 18 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building and economic development programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on **SCR 15 and SR 16**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

SCR-15

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 4:56:20 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/19/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-15

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 8:28:28 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/19/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn R Yamamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

2/17/2020

SCR15 testimony ofr public hearing 2/19/2020

Senator Ruderman,

During a family member involvement with CWS, I was privileged to experience contact with the Hilo YWCA Healthy Start Program. I can't praise the quality and skills of the social workers enough. The key to prevention of child abuse and neglect is in voluntary home visits at no charge to young families.

CWS intervention and removal to foster care is NOT prevention, but adversarial to parents and punitive to minor children.

I STRONGLY URGE THE FULL FUNDING OF THE HEALTHY START PROGRAM ON ALL ISLANDS.

Thank you,

Marilyn Yamamoto, grandparent and advocate for families.