

Testimony in Support of SB2347 SD1, Making an Appropriation for Healthy Start Home Visiting Services

SB2347 SD1 will provide emergency funds to the Department of Health to provide early intervention services for infants and children whose environment puts them at risk for developmental and emotional delays. This is done through the Healthy Start home visiting program.

Home visiting has a long history in pediatrics as a strategy for reaching those families at risk in a caring and compassionate way. Parents with a new baby who are under stress for providing food, clothing and shelter for their family and whose coping strategies are weak will benefit greatly from the home visitor approach. The visitor comes to their turf and offers them help with the practical aspects of daily living. Families are able to gain knowledge, skills and attitudes under these circumstances which are difficult for them to acquire in the hospital or clinic setting. (Pediatricians who made house calls in the "old days" can readily attest to this).

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter, Supports SB2347 SD1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to Department of Health, Early Intervention Services.