



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING  
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD  
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of  
H.B. 2040, Relating to Infant Mortality  
By GG Weisenfeld, Director

House Committee on Health  
February 5, 2014  
8:35 a.m., Room 329

Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. I am GG Weisenfeld, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning. EOEL is in support of House Bill 2040.

The purpose of this bill is to:

- Establish a comprehensive maternal and child health quality improvement program and Hawaii maternal and child health quality improvement collaborative within the Department of Health; and
- Require DOH to develop and publish a statewide comprehensive maternal and child health quality improvement strategic plan.

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) was established by Act 178 in 2012. The creation of EOEL provides government-wide authority to guide the development of a comprehensive and integrated statewide early childhood development and learning system. Since our creation, we have engaged over 100 public and private partners across the state to define the desired outcomes for children and families, as well as the critical strategies that are needed to achieve our collective priorities over the next three to five years.

Improving birth outcomes is one of these key outcomes. Children who are born at a low birth weight are at a greater risk for developmental problems, including early problems in school.

In July 2013, Hawaii was chosen by the National Governors Association be part of a National Learning Network to establish a collaborative effort to improve birth outcomes. This effort is well under way with EOEL support and participation.

EOEL looks forward to our continued work with the Department of Health to improve health and development and early learning outcomes for young children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.