



Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Read To Me International Foundation  
Liane Akana, Executive Director  
Phone: 955-7600

Saturday, March 8, 2008

Grant-In-Aid Informational Briefing – Read To Me International Foundation

Good morning legislators. My name is Liane Akana and I am the Executive Director of Read To Me International Foundation (RTMI). I am here this morning to urge your serious consideration of our grant-in-aid request.

RTMI is a non-profit organization promoting childhood literacy in Hawaii. According to a 1985 report by the federal Commission on Reading entitled *Becoming a Nation of Readers*, one finding stood out: “The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.” With a simple mission to share the love and joy of reading aloud, we provide services statewide and in Arizona.

If funded, the grant-in-aid will allow us to continue educating parents statewide on the importance of reading to their children, conduct a national quality conference for educators, and provide inmate parents and grandparents the opportunity to remain connected with their keiki through books and reading aloud.

Additionally, the funds requested will allow us to meet a federal match requirement for a Promoting Responsible Fatherhood grant that we secured through September 2011. The federal grant allows us to offer parole board approved parenting classes, video conferencing and counseling for Hawaii inmate fathers incarcerated Saguaro Correctional Center, and books and recordings for their young children. This year alone, we will serve 120 inmates and approximately 160 children.

Without the match, Hawaii risks losing the remaining three years of a five-year grant totaling \$1.25 million. These services directly benefit the inmates in the care and custody of the Hawaii Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information on our proposal and urge your serious consideration of our request.



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Testimony In Support of Grant-In-Aid Request

**Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii (234-O)**

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS & HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

9:00 A.M.

March 8, 2008

Chairs Baker and Oshiro, Vice Chairs Tsutsui and Lee, and Members of the Committees, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Moya Gray and I am the Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii. I am testifying in support of Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's request for Grant-In-Aid funding for pro bono civil legal services.

I know that your job is a difficult one, but on behalf of our clients and our staff I want to thank you for your past support of access to justice. Without your support thousands would be worse off today than they actually are. Your support of access to justice allows us to provide hope to those who have very little and this group of people grows daily. **In 2007 Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii experienced a 30% increase in demand for our services.**

Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, one of the country's first pro bono legal organizations, has been working with the indigent community since 1981. Our voice has been heard in the courtroom and before legislative bodies and we have devoted much of our resources to promoting and protecting the rights of children, victims of domestic violence, the homeless and a broad spectrum of people with few financial resources. Our service delivery through volunteers supported by staff is what sets us apart and enables us to serve so many with so little. We currently provide legal services statewide in Hilo, Kailua-Kona, Wailuku, Lihue, downtown Honolulu, Waimanalo and in Waipahu.

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii provides legal assistance, services, education and outreach services through volunteer and staff lawyers to individuals, families, children, the homeless, the elderly and the sick through our Pro Bono Referral Program, Neighborhood Legal Clinic Program, Uncontested Divorce Clinic Program, Housing Support Legal Program, Community Tax Assistance Program, Capacity Building & Legal Support Program for Non-Profits, Na Keiki Law Center Legal Services, Young Families in Need Program, Parenting Plan Mediation Pilot Program, and Youth Outreach Program.

Without the assistance of lawyers our clients would have no way to protect their basic human rights such as housing, or to sustain themselves with employment, or to keep their families whole. The children that we see would have no voice in the legal system and for many their lives would be lived either in quiet desperation or in active and dangerous rebellion.

**The Access to Justice Hui:** In 2007 the Access to Justice Hui, composed of representatives of the Judiciary, the Hawaii State Bar Association, legal services providers, the Hawaii Justice Foundation and the William S. Richardson School of Law, conducted a statewide legal needs assessment of low and moderate-income people. The Hui issued its report entitled *Achieving Access to Justice for Hawaii's People: The 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs and Barriers of Low and Moderate-Income People in Hawai'i*. A full copy of the report is available at the Hawaii State Bar Association's website:  
<http://www.hsba.org/resources/1/Documents/Access%20to%20Justice.pdf>

In its report (*page i*), The Hui found that people in Hawaii have experienced increased poverty as well as a high cost of living.

**One quarter of Hawai'i's residents live below 200% of the federal poverty guideline.** Since 1989, the number of people living below 125% of the federal poverty guideline in Hawai'i has grown 28% to 156,321. During the same period, the population living between 125% and 200% of the federal poverty guideline has grown 19% to 143,877. In 2005, a family of four living at 125% of the federal poverty guideline earned \$2,319 per month, while such a family living at 200% of poverty earned \$3,710 per month. A study by the Center on the Family at the University of Hawai'i found that in 2005 it took \$4,824 per month to cover the basic living expenses for a family of four living in Honolulu.<sup>2</sup> Families unable to afford even basic expenses certainly are in no position to pay for legal assistance when it is needed.

(Emphasis added). **The Hui found that the serious legal needs of only 1 in 5 low to moderate income people were being met. More significantly, the report found that of this group of people 2 out of every 3 people could not be served by the legal service provider because the legal service provider lacked capacity. And this is true for Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii.**

Based on its legal needs assessment, the **Access to Justice Hui recommended that the community take 10 action steps to increase access to justice, including "increasing the funding to support the delivery of legal services to ensure access to justice"** (See *The Community Wide Action Plan: 10 Action Steps To Increase Access To Justice In Hawai'i By 2010*).

**In 2007 Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii experienced a 30% increase in the demand for our services, outstripping our current ability to meet the need.** In the month of

January 2008 calls to our office increased by 45% over the prior January. Truly, having access to justice and our courts is a critical issue for many of Hawaii's people.

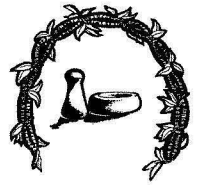
For all of these reasons funding for these legal services is desperately needed. Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii is requesting \$890,000 from the legislature for FY 2008-09 to continue providing civil legal services statewide and to open three new offices staffed by three part-time employees in Waianae, Hilo and in Wailuku. **With this funding, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii will be able to meet the 30% increase in demand for our services, providing access to justice to the thousands of people statewide.** More people will be able to protect their children, their homes, their jobs and begin new lives. More people who are at risk of homeless, or who are homeless, will be able to protect their families from vagaries of life lived in a car, in a shelter, in a park or on the beach.

Increased funding will also help Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii pay living wages to our own employees. In 2007 we, as with many businesses in Hawaii, were unable to keep up with rising wages, and lost many employees to other businesses. Those dedicated employees who have remained with Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii barely make a living wage. Additional funding would allow us to recruit and retain staff with a living wage.

Without this funding, Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii will not be able to meet the rising need for legal services, whether that call is from Honolulu or from any of the Neighbor Island locations that we currently serve. **If families cannot protect their children, if more people lose their jobs and homes, or are enticed to borrow more money at high interest rates, the cost to the State to address these problem will only increase – whether that cost is in increased crime, increased teenaged pregnancies, increased domestic violence, increased child abuse, or increased homelessness.**

It is clear that those who live in poverty and cannot pay a lawyer to advise and counsel them or to represent them, have no real access to justice and our courts. These same people will be unable to protect their children, their homes, or their jobs. And the lack of justice will place more people already at risk of homeless out onto the street, the lack of justice will exacerbate the harm to children and families, and will hamper those who are trying to protect their families from vagaries of life lived in a car, in a shelter, in a park or on the beach.

We deeply appreciate your consideration of our request. Thank you.



**Joint Information Briefing on Grants-in Aid  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance**

**Testimony in Support of  
Waianae District Comprehensive Health and Hospital Board, Inc.  
dba Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center**

**Requesting \$2,500,000 for Phase II Rebuilding/Renovation of 30+ Year Old Outpatient  
and Emergency Medical Clinic Building**

Submitted by: Richard P. Bettini, Chief Executive Officer  
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center/Contact: 696-1457

The Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center's CIP request will address the Health Center's critical need to expand its medical facilities, which are 30+ years old, in order to support its role as the only safety-net health care provider on the Leeward Coast.

To address the dire need for expanded and new facilities, the Health Center identified three phases of construction projects.

- Phase I:** Build a new 3-story medical building to address immediate needs of overcrowded primary care clinical space. (to be completed Summer 2008)
- Phase II:** **Rebuild and/or renovate the 30+ year old vacated medical clinic space and incorporate and upgrade the Health Center's 30+ year old emergency department space.**

The Health Center's capital improvement project will serve the following overall purpose:

- Upgrade and expand family medicine
- Develop and modernize emergency medical services
- Build teaching and training facilities for Waianae economic development purposes

**In order to complete the capital improvements, the Health Center is requesting \$2,500,000 in funding to complete the Phase II rebuilding and/or renovations of its existing 30+ year old primary care and emergency facilities to accommodate comprehensive healthcare services including emergency medical care.**

In 2007 the Health Center requested a state appropriation of \$3.5 million to complete its current Phase II capital project. The legislature funded \$1 million of this request. The Health Center is seeking the \$2.5 million balance to be funded in 2008. Without the balance of funding, the Health Center will not be able to achieve the long range outcome which is to improve medical care and increase economic development opportunities for the community.

We ask for your support of this important project for our patients and the Leeward Coast community. Thank you.



March 8, 2008

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Joan Naguwa  
Executive Director

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Joan Naguwa, Executive Director

RE: Waikiki Community Center Grant-In-Aid Request for Electrical Improvement Project- Phase I

Hearing: Grants-In-Aid Informational Briefing  
Hearing Date: Saturday, March 8, 2008  
Time: 9:00 am  
Place: State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Chairs Baker and Oshiro and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Joan Naguwa, Executive Director of Waikiki Community Center (WCC). Waikiki Community Center requests your support for funding for our "Electrical Improvement Project – Phase I."

Waikiki Community Center operates many programs, including an early education center, senior program and community meeting facilities. It is also home to 5 nonprofit and faith-based organizations, including a community health clinic. Over 15,000 people of all ages island-wide receive services and/or utilize our facilities each year. Our property is comprised of 3 two-story buildings that were incrementally built from 1955 to 1964. WCC holds a 30 year master lease with the State of Hawaii for the management and maintenance of the property and facilities.

The purpose of WCC's grant-in-aid request of \$425,500 is to improve public safety and accessibility of our facilities. Our property is comprised of 3 two-story buildings that were built over 50 years ago. Much of the original major electrical equipment (e.g. distribution panel) will need to be replaced very soon, as determined by a professional electrical assessment conducted in 2007. We have reached maximum capacity of our current electrical system and cannot accommodate additional loads to support a much needed new ADA compliant fire alarm system or additional security lighting to ensure the safety of our patrons.

This project includes installation of a larger capacity electrical transformer, new distribution panel and wiring in order to support new equipment and facility renovations for compliance with local and national electrical and fire codes as well as ADA requirements. This grant-in-aid request is critical to the health and safety of the public which utilize WCC facilities each day.

We ask for your support in funding Waikiki Community Center's Grant-In-Aid request. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support.

310 Paoakalani Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815  
Phone: 808 923-1802  
Fax: 808 922-2099



30 Years of Service to the Community  
[www.waikikicomunitycenter.org](http://www.waikikicomunitycenter.org)



March 8, 2008

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Vivian Tsuji

Rodney Wong

Joan Naguwa  
Executive Director

TO: The Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Rep. Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Members of  
the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Joan Naguwa, Executive Director

RE: Waikiki Community Center Grant-In-Aid Request for "Senior Services for  
Waikiki's Elders"

Hearing: Grants-In-Aid Informational Briefing  
Hearing Date: Saturday, March 8, 2008  
Time: 9:00 am  
Place: State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Chairs Baker and Oshiro and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and  
Means and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Joan Naguwa, Executive Director of Waikiki Community Center (WCC).  
Waikiki Community Center requests your support for funding of our "Senior Services for  
Waikiki's Elders" program.

Our grant-in-aid request of \$81,000 will enable Waikiki Community Center to continue its  
current continuum of services for older adults in Waikiki. Waikiki has one of the highest  
populations of elders per area density on Oahu. Yet Waikiki can be an isolating community  
with its proliferation of condominiums and high transiency rates among its residents. Most  
of Waikiki's seniors live alone or with an equally older spouse, on fixed and limited income  
and have little or no family nearby.

WCC provides older adults with a place to gather for needed services and activities that  
support their independence and encourage healthy and engaged aging. Through our  
various activities, case management, counseling and outreach services, the elderly in  
Waikiki are able to engage in healthy, productive activities and build supportive social  
networks that are critical to their ability to remain living independently in the community and  
to deter premature institutionalization, saving the State of Hawaii an estimated \$90,000 per  
year per senior citizen in long term care costs.

It is common to find seniors over the age of 90 actively participating in our activities. At the  
same time, a growing number of Waikiki's elders are aging in place and in need of more  
support services to help them manage the challenges of aging. They frequently need help  
in connecting with and managing the often-perplexing system of human services available  
in the community. Support to their caregivers is also provided through information and  
assistance, counseling and helping them with deal with the difficult job of caring for their  
elderly family members.

Our request is critical to ensuring that these services receive the assistance they need.  
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support.

310 Paoakalani Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815  
Phone: 808 923-1802  
Fax: 808 922-2099



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## FINGIA

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**From:** Veronica Tomooka [VTomooka@waimanalohc.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2008 3:15 PM  
**To:** testimony; FINGIA  
**Cc:** May Akamine  
**Subject:** Waimanalo Health Center GIA request

Attached are all the testimonies collected to support the WHC GIA request.

**Veronica K. Tomooka**  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
Waimanalo Health Center  
41-1347 Kalaniana'ole Hwy  
Waimanalo, HI 96795-1247  
(808) 259-7948 ext.113  
(808) 259-6449 fax  
[vtomooka@waimanalohc.org](mailto:vtomooka@waimanalohc.org)

SEVERAL IDENTICAL TESTIMONIES WERE RECEIVED.  
A SAMPLE IS INCLUDED ON THE NEXT PAGE. OTHERS  
SUBMITTING INCLUDE :

1. UYANGA BATZOGS
2. MAY AKAMINE
3. BRANDON DANAO
4. VALERIE DANAO
5. TIS DUARTE
6. CATHERINE FISS
7. WOODLEY FUNTANILLA
8. BRENDA GASPER - MITCHELL
9. CHRISTINA LEE, MD
10. ANITA NAKAMURA
11. ANDREW PEREZ
12. CHRISTOPHER QUIMPO
13. ROBERT RHODES
14. AMBER STEPHENS
15. ABIGAIL SEDA
16. VERONICA TOMOOKA
17. TRINA YANO-MCKNEELE



**Kris Aceret**  
**41-130 Waikupanaha Street**  
**Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795**

Date: March 5, 2008

To: Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair, House Finance Committee

From: Kris Aceret, Employee of Waimanalo Health Center

I strongly support Waimanalo Health Center's (WHC) Grant-In-Aid application for **"EMERGENCY & DENTAL EQUIPMENT & OTHER FACILITY RENOVATIONS NEEDED TO ENSURE CRITICAL ACCESS TO CARE"** which will provide funds for their Dental Clinic operatory equipment (exam chairs & other equipment, digital x-ray system, IT hardware & software, etc.), wheelchair lift, an automated electronic defibrillator, fire alarm system, emergency generator, and other critical equipment to ensure vital access to needed health services.

WHC, which serves a Medically Underserved Population in a Health Professions Shortage Area, is a vital part of Hawaii's health care system serving our Waimanalo and Ko'olaupoko communities and providing quality preventive and primary health and social services. WHC served nearly 4,000 people in 13,000 visits this past year; 30% of our patients have no health insurance. Another 45% have QUEST Medicaid. Not only does WHC serve the uninsured and underinsured, but also the poor, elderly, at-risk youth, homeless, and many others with financial, cultural, social and other barriers to care. In addition, WHC serves a large population of Native Hawaiians who have the worst health indicators (hypertension, diabetes, obesity, etc.) compared to other ethnic groups.

It makes a lot of sense to support WHC's GIA application. If upfront, primary care is provided to our Waimanalo residents and to Hawaii's people, we will save on the costly Emergency Room and hospitalizations that will, inevitably, be utilized when primary and preventive health care is not sought. I am proud of the high quality and compassionate care that WHC provides its patients and our community. In addition, WHC is committed to making our community a better place to live by providing not only vital health services, but also jobs, training, and bringing our community together. We appreciate the long-term, unwavering support that the Legislature has given WHC, our patients, and our community. We urge your support for WHC's Grant-In-Aid application for **"EMERGENCY & DENTAL EQUIPMENT & OTHER FACILITY RENOVATIONS NEEDED TO ENSURE CRITICAL ACCESS TO CARE"**. Mahalo and ALOHA!