

Brian M. Kakahara
321 S. Lono Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker and Marcus R. Oshiro
State of Hawaii, Joint Hearings – Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

E-mail: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov or FINGIA@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Imua Family Services Grant-in-Aid Application

Informational Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 9:00 a.m. State Capital Auditorium

Dear Senator Baker, Representative Oshiro & Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance:

On behalf of Imua Family Services and the thousands of families they have served over the past 60 years, I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of their grant-in-aid application for the Early Childhood Development Program. This application for \$200,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009 will ensure at least 100 children age 3 through 5 and their families will continue to receive support through this much needed program.

The Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) provides continued therapeutic service to children age three through five who do not meet age appropriate developmental milestones and fall outside the scope of Department of Education (DOE) Special Education Preschool services. ECDP began in March 2007 as a three-year demonstration project with strong funding support from Hawaii based private foundations and community partners. During the first year Imua served 92 children and families providing support needed to be better prepared for preschool, kindergarten and beyond. As of March 1, 2008, 75 children are currently receiving services in the program with an additional 38 children in the enrollment process.

The overall outcome for ECDP is to provide developmental support for children age three through five in all facets of their life so that they are prepared for learning. Studies have determined that continued early intervention through age five provides children with valuable support during the crucial developmental years, giving them a greater chance of thriving in preschool and kindergarten, and leading a healthy productive life. **Your investment now in a young child's development will reduce the costs of social programs that be needed for this child as they grow up.**

Imua Family Services continues to seek and receive funding from private foundations and community partners. State support for this innovative and valuable program would reflect Hawaii's belief that investing in our keiki is money well spent. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **strong support of Imua Family Services grant-in-aid application**. I can be reached at 873-2235 for any further questions.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Kakahara
President of Imua Family Services

Grants-In-Aid Informational Briefing
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
State Capitol Auditorium
9:00AM
Neighbor Island Applicant

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

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro
Chair, House Committee on Finance

From: Pauline Hess for Ku'ulei Bell, President, Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa

Re: Grants-in-Aid Informational Briefing

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information regarding our application. Listed below are updates to our application:

I. Background and Summary

3. State the public purpose and need to be served:

Advocacy

- **Patient pension increases:** In early 2008, the 'Ohana through the request of older Kalaupapa patients contacted state legislators to assist them with their pension increase. **Update:** On January 23, 2008, the bill SB3228, Pensions of Hansen's Disease Facilities Employees, was introduced in the Senate by Senator English, Senator Baker, and Senator Tsutsui. The bill adjusts pension amounts for retired patient employees of Hansen's disease facilities; provides for annual increase to be paid to deceased retired patient employees' estates. The 'Ohana, patients and their family members testified in favor of SB3228. The bill was transmitted to the House on March 4, 2008, and is scheduled to be heard by HLT on Wednesday, 03-12-08 at 8:00am in the House conference room 329.
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- **Air ambulance service:** When the Department of Health first learned that the 'Ohana was concerned about the lack of air ambulance services for end-of-life issues, an official welcomed the involvement of the 'Ohana, once again showing that collaboration can lead to solutions. **Update:** Through hard work and creative thinking a solution was found that will allow Air Med to fly Kalaupapa patients home for their final days. The community and members of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa would like

to thank Senator Roz Baker, Representative Mele Carroll, Air Med and Sandy Apter; Dr. Linda Rosen; the State Department of Health; Scotty Schaefer and Speedy Bailey.

Preservation

- **Kalaupapa Monument: Update:** The Kalaupapa Memorial Act, H. R. 3332, introduced by Congresswoman Mazie Hirono and co-sponsored by Congressman Neil Abercrombie, passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on February 12, 2008. A companion bill S.2502, introduced by Senator Daniel Akaka and co-sponsored by Senator Daniel Inouye is expected to reach the floor of the Senate early this year. There have been editorials in the Star Bulletin, Honolulu Advertiser, Maui News and the New York Times. All of them in favor of the memorial and the bill.

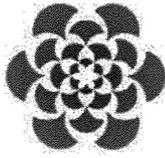
The 'Ohana applied for the Grant-In-Aid in year 2006 and our application was approved by the state legislators. The funds were not released by the administration.

I plan to attend the briefing on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 as a representative from the 'Ohana. Due to health reasons it is possible to schedule me so that I may be there at a specific time. I understand the volume of applications is a challenge and to schedule a time for a representative may be difficult. I am in a care home and have to be transported by a care giver so I must schedule accordingly. If you want to contact me, please call my care giver Gladys at 733-8080 and ask for me, (Hale Mohalu at Leahi) or please call our vice president, Pauline Hess at 778-2059. If I am too ill to attend, our vice president, Pauline Hess will attend in my place.

Thank you again for allowing me to provide you with additional information and I look forward to the informational briefing on Wednesday.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Ku'ulei Bell



KAUAI PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE

March 10, 2008

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Representative Marcus H. Oshiro
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Representative Oshiro,

I regret I am unable to attend the important March 12 Grants-in-Aid Information Briefing due to other prior commitments. However, I appreciate the opportunity to present additional testimony to augment our GIA proposal submitted related to the "Expansion of community-based before and after school programs for Kaua'i youth ages 5-18."

The need for this program was confirmed through a survey of Kaua'i before and after school programs in November 2007. Since that time, as I continue to meet with groups working on various community issues, the shortage of these programs is raised frequently as a key concern. While there are programs in place, there is a need to serve more youth and to expand the hours services are available.

I have been working with drug prevention groups in each of the three school complexes on Kaua'i. They are so concerned about this issue that they have included as a goal in the island-wide drug plan that is finalized to "Ensure that after-school, intersession, weekend, and summer activities that encourage a drug-free life are offered to youth."

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning issued a report in 2007 that states:

Evidence is mounting that where and how youth spend their time outside of normal school hours has important implications for their development. On the negative side, estimates suggest that more than 7 million children in the United States are without adult supervision for some period of time after school. This

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR KAUAI

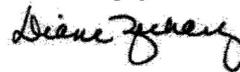
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Email kpa@kauainetwork.org www.kauainetwork.org

unsupervised time puts youth at risk for such negative outcomes as academic and behavioral problems, drug use and other types of risky behavior (Weisman & Gottfredson, 2001). On the positive side, young people benefit when they spend time engaged in structured pursuits that offer opportunities for positive interactions with adults and peers, encourage them to contribute and take initiative, and contain challenging and engaging tasks that help them develop and apply new skills and personal talents (American Youth Policy Forum, 2006; Carnegie Corporation, 1992; Larson & Verma, 1999; National Research Council & Institute of Medicine, 2002).

The funding from the proposed grant-in-aid would help support well-designed programs offering a variety of out-of-school activities to engage, stimulate, motivate and ensure the safety of our young people while promoting healthy behaviors. We ask for your support of this \$200,000 request.

Sincerely yours,



Diane Zachary
President & CEO