

"Enhancing Lives Through Self-Reliance"

March 11, 2008

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair of Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair of Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226 and 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Fax: 808-586-6131 and 808-586-6461

Support for House Bill 2272, Public hearing on 3/13/08

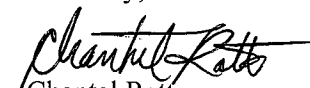
Dear Committee Chair,

On behalf of Ka Lima O Maui I would like to offer support for **House Bill #2272** with the proposed amendments (HB2272 HD2). House Bill 2272 HD2 would amend existing language in HRS 76-77 Exemption #16 to enable public agencies (County and State governments) to contract for personal custodial and grounds services with **qualified community rehabilitation programs** as defined in statute (HRS 103D Section 1001) for no more than one year and at a cost of no more than \$1,000,000. The proposed change would also amend the cap on the contract amount from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000, a necessary change for Ka Lima since our biggest current contract with the County is close to \$720,000. A higher cap allows for annual inflationary increases on our current contracts.

Ka Lima O Maui has negotiated non-bid contracts with the County of Maui since the inception of this law, nearly 25 years ago. This year alone these work contracts total nearly \$1 million and **provide full time, benefited employment for over 40 disabled and economically disadvantaged workers**. We have custodial and grounds maintenance contracts with the County of Maui Departments of Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works and Fire. The employment these contracts provide has enabled many of our most severely disabled workers to become independent and self-supporting members of our community.

Please help us by supporting HB 2272 with the proposed amendments so we can continue to carry our mission of "Enhancing Lives through Self-Reliance" for adults with disabilities. Thank you very much for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,


Chantal Ratte
Executive Director