



"Enhancing Lives Through Self-Reliance"

February 11, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

Representative Bob Nakasone
 Labor and Public Employment Committee Vice-Chair
 Hawaii State Capitol, Room 424
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
 Fax: 808-586-6211

Re: **House Bill 2272**

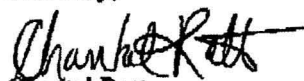
Dear Representative Nakasone,

On behalf of Ka Lima O Maui and all other Rehabilitation Facilities of Hawaii, I would like to submit this letter in support of House Bill #2272 to amend existing language in HRS 76-77 Exemption #16. The proposed amendment would enable public agencies (County and State governments) to contract for personal services with qualified community rehabilitation programs as defined in statute (HRS 103D Section 1001) and would remove the maximum contract limit from such contracts. Contracting opportunities with qualified community rehabilitation programs provide much needed employment opportunities for Hawaii's most under/unemployed segment of our population and enables workers with disabilities to become contributing members of our communities.

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.

It is important to remember that the proposed amendment would only apply to qualified community rehabilitation programs, a very small and limited number of agencies in Hawaii. Please help us by supporting HB 2272 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

J. Walter Cameron Center, 95 Mahalani Street - Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
 Tel: (808) 244-5502 / 244-5503 - Fax: (808) 244-2077
 info@kalimaomaui.org

TOTAL P.01