



**HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL**

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To: Committee on Human Services & Housing  
Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008  
Time: 9:15 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 329 – State Capitol

**Re: TESTIMONY OF GEROGE YOKOYAMA IN SUPPORT OF HB 3303**

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I testify in support of HB 3303 which makes an appropriation to alleviate barriers of obtaining services faced by the influx of recent arrivals from the Marshall Islands by providing them with opportunities to assimilate and become contributing members of the community.

To this end, Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council proposes to extend existing programs to help the Marshallese residents in the County of Hawaii, particularly in the District of Ka`u with focus on preschool children numbering approximately 150 and public school K-12 students numbering approximately 145 who attend Pahala Elementary and Ka`u High and Naalehu Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

Unless help is rendered to the Marshallese children and youth, they may become a detriment rather than a benefit to themselves, as well as the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

George Yokoyama  
Executive Director  
Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council

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