



Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2008 6:40 PM
From: Ethel Yamane <ehy@hawaii.rr.com>
To: HI.Testimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: HPPR@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony on HR #3352 relating to an audit of HDRC

Testimony on HB # 3352

Relating to An Audit of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center

As a concerned citizen, I have observed the struggles of private providers of services to persons with developmental disabilities in providing guidance, protection, education in an environment comparable to any other services for other citizens within the state. As a former administrator with the Department of Health which provided funding and oversight to these private providers of services, I have always marveled at the dedication, patience and sincere interest of the staff working with the clients. When I look back on the Waimano Institution for the mentally retarded and the care of the mentally challenged in the community today, there is no comparison. The clients in the community are really enjoying a normal life in the community.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center has a right to advocate for persons with disabilities but the persons with developmental disabilities also have the right to privacy. Only when there are specific complaints on someone, the record should be open to HDRC. Otherwise, it will be like a witch hunt looking to find something to charge the providers with. The providers are regularly monitored for compliance by the licensing agency, the funding agencies, both Federal and State. Abuse cases are also reported to the Adult Protective Services of the Department of Human Services.

HDRC has hired attorneys to charge different programs with non-compliances and have made monetary settlements with the programs involved. The private agencies do not have the funds to be paying thousands of dollars to HDRC. Their funds really need to be used to care for the persons with disabilities.

In view of the ongoing disputes with HDRC, an audit of the agency's management and funding activities are warranted.

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mizuno1-Edgar

From: bobjudie [bobjudie@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 7:03 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Subject: HB3352 HEARING 2/6/08 8 AM ROOM 329

TO HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

FROM ROBERT AND JUDITH DEBONE

WE SUPPORT HB3352 AS PARENTS OF A MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULT DAUGHTER

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