

LATE

Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008 5:48 AM
From: kuulei <kuulei.kilion@hawaii.rr.com>
To: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2758

TO: The Senate Committee on Human Services & Public Housing
Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

FROM: Ku'uilei A. Kiliona

RE: SB 2758 Audit of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Hearing Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008

Time: 1:15

Place: Conference Room 016

One copy of testimony to room 226

Dear Senate Committee and Chairs Chun Oakland and Ihara,

This testimony is in strong favor of SB 2758 requesting the State Auditor to do a financial and management audit of Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC) for several reasons:

1) As stated in the body of the bill, HDRC is a quasi-public institution that is supported in part by public funds. In other words, they are supported in part by Hawaii State tax payers money. Therefore, it is the duty of our legislators to ensure that monies are being properly managed.

HDRC has been receiving money from State tax payers for some 30 years without the oversight of a State audit. Good business practices dictate that an audit by a contributor would be in order and long overdue. The federal government which also distributes money to the HDRC has done reviews, but the State of Hawaii has not done any oversight of these public funds. It behooves the State to move forward with a financial and management audit of HDRC.

2) Congress created a nationwide Protection & Advocacy agency to aid individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness and their

families in gaining access to appropriate support and services, yet I know of several instances over the years when HDRC (Hawaii's protection & advocacy agency) has not complied. And I continue to hear of more cases where HDRC dropped the ball when it came to protecting the very people they are dictated to serve.

At a recent meeting of the Developmental Disabilities Council, it was learned that a gentleman with disabilities who is "housed" in a long term care unit has been there for 30 years against his will. He contacted the HDRC many years ago to advocate for him. HDRC took his case but never resolved anything for this gentleman. Basically, they dropped the ball. Consequently, this gentleman has suffered unbelievable physical and mental abuse while in the long term care unit.

It is time for the State legislature to be pro-active in their duty to the tax payers and to the vulnerable populations that depend on its law makers to protect them.

Sincerely,

Ku'uilei A. Killiona

(sent via email: kuuleikilliona@hawaii.rr.com)

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LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2008 SESSION

To: Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

From: Wayne M. Tanna, Esq.,
Member Board of Directors

Re: **OPPOSITION to SB 2758**
Relating to an audit of the Hawaii Disabilities Rights Center

Hearing: Thursday, February 7, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Members of the Senate Committee Human Services and Housing:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony opposing SB 2758, "Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and Program Audit of the Hawaii Disabilities Rights Center (HDRC)."

I am testifying as a citizen, as an attorney and from the perspective of a full professor of accounting. I have extensive experience with non profits large and small throughout the state and have assisted in the development of two programs that serve to develop and educate non profit boards and staff. I am currently involved with the University of Hawaii's Center on the Family as a pro bono accounting and legal consultant in the Compassion Capital Fellows program. I am also on the faculty of the Nonprofit MBA program, a unique program in Hawaii that educates senior leaders in the nonprofit community to better serve the community. Additionally, I have played a major role in the development and implementation of the non profit project at Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii.

I am currently a member of the of the HDRC board of Directors and have previously served three terms from September 1997 – December 2006 on the Board of Directors of Hawaii Disability Rights Center. As a board member I have had the opportunity to serve as secretary, treasurer, vice-chair and chair of the Center. During my term of service I have had the opportunity to witness and be involved in a dynamic organization that has and continues to serve Hawaii's disabled population. HDRC has been recognized by the federal government on numerous occasions as a model for Protection and Advocacy Agencies nationwide. During my tenure on the HDRC board the services delivered and HDRC's performance was nothing short of amazing. The number of clients served by HDRC as reported to and verified by independent audits was again truly outstanding.

During my terms on the board the audits listed no serious findings, this included the extremely rigorous A133 audits that are required of organizations that annually receive more than

testimony

From: kuulei [kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 5:54 AM
To: testimony
Cc: Public Access Room
Subject: LATE TESTIMONY

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