



HAWAII COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

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To: Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

Date: Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 016 – State Capitol

Re: TESTIMONY OF GEROGE YOKOYAMA IN SUPPORT OF SB 2873

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I testify in support of SB 2873 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