

testimony

From: kuulei [kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 11:21 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 3068

LATE

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 3068

TO: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Rosalyn Baker, Chair and Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

FROM: Ku'u'lei A. Kilion

Hearing Date: Friday, February 15, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of the *intent* of Senate Bill 3068, but in opposition to the amount of money requested. This measure requests only \$10,000,000 in emergency appropriation, yet the amount that the Adult Mental Health Department (AMHD) needs to expunge it's 2007-2008 deficit is \$18,000,000.

Although the Department of Health has previously requested emergency appropriations for the AMHD, this year's request will most likely not occur again next year or the year after. The new AMHD fiscal officer has demonstrated a productiveness and resourcefulness that will benefit the upcoming fiscal years.

I do not have the answer as to why the amount requested is only \$10,000,000 instead of the \$18,000,000. Maybe it is due in part to the projected budget shortfall.

Requesting a lower amount might adversely affect the programs and services that took so much time and effort by so many, to meet compliance with the federal lawsuit that successfully ended after so many years as a burden to the State.

Please reconsider the amount of money that is being requested for an emergency appropriation. The amount needs to be \$18,000,000.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

Ku'u'lei A. Kilion
(sent via email: kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com)