



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

March 25, 2008

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senate Concurrent Resolution 200 - Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and Management Audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) is a statewide board with seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor, thirteen (13) of whom are persons with disabilities or family members. DCAB's mission is to advocate for and promote full integration, independence, equal access, and quality of life for persons with disabilities in society. This testimony represents a position voted upon by the Legislative Committee of the Board.

DCAB supports this concurrent resolution. Our support is based upon our concerns that individuals with disabilities are not receiving the expected and necessary core independent living services as stated on page 1.

DCAB serves as a clearinghouse of disability-related information and services, but we do not provide any direct client services. Last year we fielded approximately 3,000 requests for information or services. We have stopped referring any individuals to the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living to obtain any 1:1 direct services such as finding a place to live, obtaining help in understanding and filling out a Social Security application form or a tax form, learning how to open up a checking account and manage money, finding a personal care attendant, etc., because we consistently receive call backs stating that either the person was informed that they would not be serviced, they did not receive a return call, or they do not provide intake. We consistently have individuals call our office and when we offer a referral to Hawaii Centers on Independent Living for direct services, we are told that they have tried to no avail.

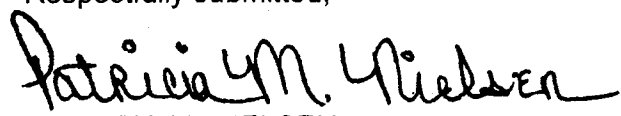
The agency's web site indicates the availability of 1:1 skills training, peer mentoring, peer advocacy, individual and family counseling, attendant management training, housing assistance and referral, equipment loan, guidance on accessibility, etc., but consumers do not receive those services as expected. These are all types of services that individuals expect and used to receive but no longer can obtain. Thus, consumers end up at our agency, which does not provide direct client services, or the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, which should only be handling formal complaints. While we recognize that an agency's priorities may shift from year to year in response to community needs or shifts in funding priorities, these core services should continue, DCAB, through its predecessor agency the Commission on Persons with Disabilities, was active in supporting the creation of the Centers here in Hawaii. In most states there are multiple independent living centers. In Hawaii, however, we have only one independent living center with offices in each county. Thus, when the agency does not provide expected direct client services or when prior services and access to staff diminishes, the individuals have no other agency to turn to for assistance.

Federal oversight should be the purview of the federal funding agency but federal oversight is minimal, particularly with the disbanding of the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration's regional offices. We are also aware that the state provides monies through at least two other significant contracts in generalized independent living and specialized deaf independent living services. We believe that it is in the interest of the Legislature to ensure that those funds are expended in such a manner that clients actually receive direct services. If the Auditor is not the appropriate agency, then we believe that the State agency that provides money to the Centers for Independent Living should conduct the review.

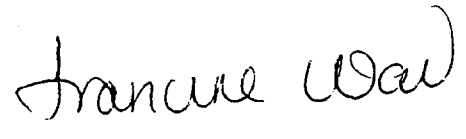
For the record, DCAB has no financial transactions with the Centers and provides no funding to them. We were both sub-contractors with the Pacific ADA Center (a.k.a. Pacific Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center) in Oakland, California, for about six years with two small ADA contracts until approximately five years ago when the entire ADA sub-contract was shifted to DCAB by the funding agency. The fiscal agent for any state monies to Hawaii Centers for Independent Living is the Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division. We defer to them regarding financial oversight issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICIA M. NIELSEN
Chairperson
Legislative Committee



FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director

DAN NAGATA, SR

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 4:30 pm
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY
TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
ON
SCR 200, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF
THE HAWAII CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

To the Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members:

I am Dan Nagata, Sr. I am deaf and a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Sorry I can't come. Why? Because I work today.

I support SCR 200. I want you to investigate on HCJL and make sure they help us more. Wonder where the money went.

HCJL is in dark shadow and is a Christmas Carol. HCJL is Scrooge. Pat never helps me with the rent, electric bills, and phone bills because my phone was disconnected so I seek help at HCJL. Pat ordered HCJL staff not to help me and told HCJL people to find other places. Why did HCJL refer me to Helping Hands? They did not help me. Not right place to look for help. I know HCJL has plenty of money so why didn't they help us?? That is why HCJL sounds like Christmas Carol and is selfish with the money. So how come they said no money? I don't understand why they have no money at all.

I hear many deaf people complain about HCJL because they don't help them with the rents, too. Pat ordered the staff. She controls the staff - tells them not to do this or that.

Where is the justice? What rights we have to get services and programs? HCJL has birdbrain. Not very nice not to help us.

HCJL reminds me of Verizon, not doing good services to people.

Mahalo for let me testify.

Sincerely,

Dan Nagata, Sr.

Aloha Committee,

My name is Roxanna U Bolden (formerly Harris). I am a former staff of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living. I am writing in favor of having the CIL audited.

I have had the opportunity to work for the former HCIL Executive Director (ED) Mark T. Obatake, and Patricia Lockwood, the current HCIL ED. I am very much in favor of having HCIL audited. I have voiced concerns to the board of directors regarding the inconsistencies of policies and procedures, the mistreatment of staff, and the constant accusations of theft. During my tenure there was a private investigator hired who conducted an investigation on the Oahu staff. During these questionings, we were not briefed as to our basic rights by either the investigator or the current administration. Constant threats of firings and public firings were the tactics, in my opinion, to demonstrate authority under the new administration and a method to suppress us from expressing our opinions or questioning policy issues. Normally allegations that were brought out to staff members were never proven to be true. In a personal situation, I was given a written reprimand for voicing my concerns to a board member. Following that event a letter was generated from the board of directors informing all staff members that we were not to have contact with any of the board of directors. Any complaints we had must be taken up through the executive director, who will then forward it to the board. This procedure by itself was flawed due to the fact that most of the issues were with the HCIL ED herself. All of the above events created a hostile work environment for myself and I believe significantly led to seriously low morale in the work place. Please excuse the brevity of this letter, for I have many other situations in which inappropriate events and activities have taken place both immorally and most possibly illegally. I can be contacted at the below information if further information is requested.

Roxanna U. Bolden
cellular number: 497-2350
home phone number: 664-6337
email address: rharris468@aol.com

testimony

From: bobby harris [bobbyjoe60@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 2:06 AM
To: testimony
Subject: FW: scr200

From: bobby harris [mailto:bobbyjoe60@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 11:54 PM
Subject: [!! SPAM] FW: scr200

From: bobbyjoe60@hotmail.com
to: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Date: Mon, 24 Mar 2008 12:24:1000

subject:SCR200

ALOHA

My name is Bobby Harris. I am hard of hearing and a local resident of Oahu I support SCR200 because I feel that the HCIL should be audited to make sure that the money is being spent accurately on the services and programs for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and the late deafened. I do not understand why deaf, hard-of-hearing, and the late deafened people did not receive the services at all at HCIL. What is HCIL doing? What responsibilities do HCIL have for us??

It isn't appropriate for someone not to get or obtain service requested by the individual who may come into the agency seeking a intake or counselor to help with housing, financial, ssa. Food stamps, welfare.etc Many deaf cannot understand words well. Also, I thought HCIL is only for people with disabilities, not for deaf people, but they do provide the services. Yet, I don't understand why deaf people are turned away by HCIL. What was the reason why HCIL turn them away and close the cases without filling the requests with FULL SATISFACTION??

I keep wondering why Cheryl and Pat fly to the mainland too often and never reported back to the staff for further training. I understand one former employee told me that HCIL never gave the staff the training how to handle the case management. I want you to investigate on their spending because \$1,200,000 from the federal grant and state grants. Wow, this is a lot of money but where did they go??

Is taping of person entering the office legal? Is spying on deaf clients with the hidden camera and assuming that the deaf clients talking with each other and having the staff and the volunteer watching the video tape legal? It sounds like abusing deaf clients' rights. I feel it is not

3/25/2008

comfortable and not like a real home because spying on them on videotape and then making threats to tell them not to come back to HCIL. I feel that the HCIL executive director and the independent living director are abusing their work times but when I went to HCIL, I rarely saw Cheryl at the workplace and thought she was out on the errand but she flew to another island or to the mainland. I feel that HCIL may have abused with the power, money, and authority. I don't feel comfortable with the volunteers who handle files and look into the files illegally. The files should be kept confidential! The volunteers don't do the office work for the staff.

I feel that some staff is not certified or intensively trained to work with deaf or hard of hearing. I cannot imagine who the staff is hired without the bachelor's degree to do the counseling work. She told some of us that she has Bachelor's and Master's degree but does not seem to be qualified for her current job. She misses work too much and is abusing her work there.

Also, the director abused by threatening us verbally and unprofessionally. it and has been making false statements of her disability and abuse to other subjects as well

Solely, i feel it is totally illegal for these two employees to be abusing the authority of that office and taping and spying on each individual that comes in, then making threats. This agency has been compromised and it has been used for her means of illegal use of the premises and has been using a deaf person to spy on other deaf and disabled in our community. This agency should help the disabled in the community and not for other uses that is not related to HCIL. allowed the board of HCIL has also illegally been hiring bad people who do not have certification to work there they also compromised the agency.

I feel it is time to seek a separate agency - one for the deaf and one for disabled because it tends to confuse things and causes problems for any of the deaf. i am seeking to get another deaf agency to be started in our state and our city and county of Oahu to be solely only for assisting with needs of the deaf community for hearing aids, audiology. housing, ssa, food stamp applications, hud and etc, while disabled have their own agency to deal with their disability i hope that the state of Hawaii can help the deaf and hard of hearing and late deafened to obtain that agency to open. this would be a great benefit for us.

Thank you for your assistance and your consideration of this matters as per my statement.

Sincerely Yours
bobby harris

testimony

From: Desi Bartlett [bartlettohana@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 10:42 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR200 committee @ 4:30 pm March 25th w/ Sen. Chun-Oakland and Senator Ihara
Importance: High

To: Senator Chun Oakland, Senator Ihara, and to the fellow committees on board with SCR200
 From: Desiree Bartlett
 Pahoia Hawaii.

Aloha,

My name is Desiree Bartlett and i am writing to you in support of SCR200. I am very frustrated with HCIL's lack of usage, and lack of understanding regarding needs for the community. I will enclose the time line of the community's frustration and my continuous help to the deaf community, and now with my obstacles i am facing since October of 2007 to present. When i ordered two different product with understanding and respectability of what i needed them for, one was a fire alarm i had ordered in july and finally received it in October due to a "freeze" that HCIL was going through, I struggled and was very concerned for my well being as well as my family. I had to walk on eggshells to ensure my safety. I then After retrieving my equipment, I realized my alarm clock needed 2 more receiver and 2 more flash light I have one receiver for my self thus needing one more, for my kitchen. I can not have a Video phone call if i am in another room i have to tell certain people to please page me once they are ready and is in agreement to have a Videophone call, so i would not be stuck in a room for a longer period of time. Well i can not just sit in the room and wait for people to call, I have a life and responsibility to my family. I needed a light flasher in another room so if a light flashes i know its for my videophones and if i am on the lanai for some reason at least someone can let me know that there is someone at the front door. this way i do NOT have to worry about my safety.

Since my request in October of 2007 i have made at least 10 visits with HCIL Charlene Hoohuli, who has then informed me Cheryl Miskwusa was unavailable or is off the island for certain reasons. I knew the reasons behind the delay, Cheryl has continuously traveled to the mainland and or had issues with family or done something that cause a delay, Today on March 24th 2008 I returned to HCIL to ask about my whereabouts where my light flasher is and Charlene said she needs to talk to Cheryl, granted yes that Cheryl is her boss, BUT Charlene should have manage to encourage Cheryl to get the light flashers and all needs for the deaf community. She already has put one woman in bad health, and another woman in a sticky situation. My feeling is there is a favoritism and that's not right.

My main concern is the lack of respect that incurred at HCIL in Jan of 2008, I received several disturbing emails from Patrica Lockwood, telling or more likely bullying me saying I should not order the staff around, When i merely mentioned that Charlene was not in office so i asked the front desk for assistance in retrieving certain information so i wouldn't waste my gas, the HCIL is known to be a one stop center for the deaf community and i arranged to meet with HCIL Staff to pick up paper until the following morning, that very next night i got barraged with emails from Patricia Lockwood and she was basically telling me to back off from the staff or be forced to lose the case. I did not back down and i since then not received any further emails form Ms Lockwood.

I know HCIL is in a denial, they just will not see the reasons we need the community. I have fought for many deaf community who had issues with HCIL and have asked them to send a substitute for Charlene if a need arises. so we the community can get the equipments or meet with the staff member who is willing to listen and hatch a plan for the people. Charlene has not done that the procrastination and her conscientious absence has left the deaf community with a bitterness in their hands, they can't find a solution, unless HCIL resolves their issues by providing whats needed. We have seen the deterioration here, And its not a pretty issue. Many people are angry and distrustful on the HCIL's LACK of respect, lack of needs and lack of compassion.

In closing I ask the committee to please pass the SCR200 and help the big island of Hawaii return to the spirit of aloha and the people to regain their trust once again.

3/25/2008

Mahalo.

Desiree Bartlett
Big Island Hawaii

enclosing : Time line for the HCIL information regarding this case.

Time line for HCIL's downfall

Jan 2007, Charlene Hoohuli begins her position as the new HCIL (hilo) case manager

Feb 2007 complaints starts coming in with her lack of presences in HCIL's office.

March 2007 HCIL's complaints filed in Oahu and various of other locations for cheryl miskhuzu (sp) lack of provision for deaf community's needs for equipments.

April 2007 more deaf community complains on Charlene's absences were formed and then more people complained about no equipments arriving.

May 2007 Charlene flies to Oahu several times in one month .

June 2007 Desiree Bartlett, and 5 other people meets at HCIL conference room to explain the impact and to cease Charlene's transport to Oahu and inform her to start recording all of her appointments.

July 2007 Desiree Bartlett meets with a first time father and confers about housing issues and where to go to since HCIL has not assisted the first time father in finding a location with only 2 months left before the mother gave birth.

August 2007 SLF begins Cheryl and Charlene were no shows and Shanna Shimzu was overwhelmed and worked with little or no breaks. Henry Goosenbrink was there along with Raylene Souza and Lorena Merle Sugahill.

September 2007 Charlene was in office very little and constantly had to go on family bereavement situation or illness. which left the deaf community frustrated.

Oct 2007, Charlene starts provisioning equipments for the deaf services and has done little for other disabilities.

Nov 2007 Charlene was out of office most of the month along with Dec 2007 with illness and vacation time.

January 2008 Carlene has been in Oahu since first of the year and the Deaf community has been frustrated with her lack of appearances....

Febuary 2008, Charlene Hoolhuli provides services only on Mondays in Hilo Hawaii

Februaryearly March 2008, Charlene Hoohuli cancels various of appointments, (February 11th due to high storm and flooding in HCIL east (hilo office)) and amongst of other cancellation.

March 1st to March 18th Charlene Hoohuli is not in office for the duration. Was last known to be in either Oahu or in California.

March 24th, Deaf community complains lack of service since her return, with lack of information on whereabouts of her/his equipments, and closures of cases without knowledge.

3/25/2008

**Desiree Bartlett
13-3406 Kumakahi St.
Pahoa, Hawaii, 96778**

March 20, 2008

ALOHA, Chair Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Senator Les Ihara, Sen. Gary Hooser, Senator Norman Sakamoto, and Senator Fred Hemmings, and Friends,

My Name is Desiree Bartlett, I am a resident of Pahoa Hawaii, I am writing you this letter to express my concerns regarding Hilo Hawaii Center for Independent Living. I strongly support the SCR200 auditing for HCIL Hilo Hawaii; I am a Deaf consumer who has been struggling to receive services from the HCIL agency.

The lack of service has left me relying on my family when I need to depend on myself for certain situations. As a deaf adult I need to be able to take care of myself and my livelihood, no child like me who lives with her parents should have to ask her own family for assistance. When it comes to my needs I should be able to take care of myself and not have to count on my parents who are struggling with issues for themselves. The less dependency I have on them the better I can provision for myself. I have countered a lot of struggles with meeting with the case manager in Hilo Hawaii, and constantly have to deal with the lack of management with HCIL.

Currently as of this date today I have still not received equipments needed for my independency. I strongly ask that the committee please pass the SCR200 to move forward to help the Deaf community on the Big Island get better services and trust within the community to be restored with HCIL.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony and to help our community become a better community for all.

Sincerely,



Desiree Bartlett

PETITION

We, undersigned, are not fully satisfied or not happy with the services that Hawaii Center on Independent Living on Big Island provides us due to frequent absence of Hilo staff; to many incomplete requests; and many others; therefore, we ask that HCIL provide honest, professional better services and programs in the near future including replacing staff, if necessary.

NAME

ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS
Desiree Bartlett DESIREE BARTLETT	13-3406 Kamaekahi Kailua HI 96778
Kristy Pacheco	14-3361 Nanawale Blvd Pahoa, HI 96778
{John. Sobes}	Tiko St 16-2052 Pahoa, HI 96778
{ATA. Sobes}	PO Box 215 Pamuela, HI 96743
Elaine Lou Dela Cruz Merlen Delipou	222 Wainaku Ave #207 Hilo, HI 96726
Corina Kucharz Ailin Tinsley	Box 426 Honokaa, HI 96727 P.O. Box 426, Honokaa, HI 96727
James D. Souza Judy J. Martini	P.O. Box 492317 Keauhou, HI, 96749
Napali McDonald	

Overall information Charlene and Cheryl took about the same amount of time off whenever one was sick or one was out of the office leaving Shanna Shimzu with more work.

upon hearing other deaf community issues:

Juma (unknown last name) was phobited to enter HCIL's office for assistance.

James Souza was told he was not welcomed into HCIL's office

Denied informations:

1 person was denied due to having equipments from ISG which is in contract with VR (voc rehab) and had NOTHING to do with HCIL's request for additional flashers for the deaf.

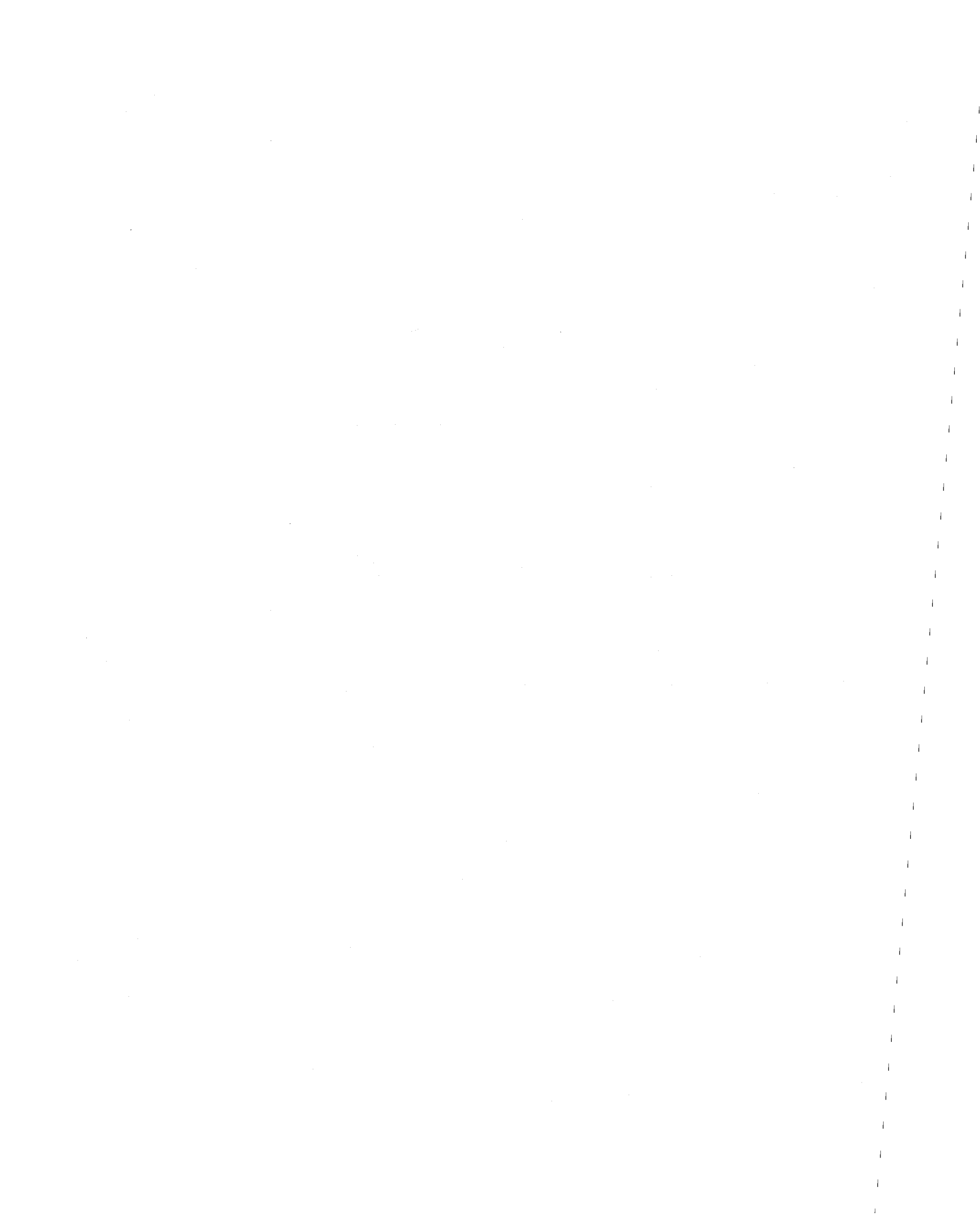
4 people are still awaiting their equipments from HCIL (i am one of them)

Recently received an nasty email from the exec director of HCIL in Oahu for her comments to me and i replied using same tactic to give her a taste of what she commented to me and i was very irate about her behavior and etc.

Charlene has wonderful people skills BUT lack of business skills she has worked for a CIL in California but only did most of intake and just set up appt for the other case leaders to establish the community's equipments and always gotten things done on time... Charlene's position in business has drastically deteriorated and i am very concerned regarding her position. outside of HCIL shes a wonderful friend but business comes first. when it comes to the deaf community's needs we need to get people to work together and to stop with the drama and dragging innocent people and hurt feelings all around.

it's time for the deaf community to get back what's rightfully theirs and that's HCIL to work as a ohana and not a favor ism

Windows Live Hotmail is giving away Zunes. [Enter for your chance to win.](#)



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Peggy Chamberlain
227 Haili Street, Apt. E-2
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

We used to have a support group meeting monthly that was coordinated by HCIL. These meetings were very important for us to meet with other disabled people who understand. We used to go to Kona for the Charity Walk coordinated by HCIL. We haven't gone in a couple of years and are losing money and a very important social event.

HCIL provided me a prescription magnifier glass which I use just about daily. This resource is not now available to others.

Sam sent out a packet of information with large print. This information was on health care, safety tips crossword puzzles & is no longer available. As far as I know there are no services and no place to get any of this now. I think the HCIL books should be audited. My worker found her work with someone else's name on it and I know I talked only to Eiel. I received two letters in August 2007 telling me "my file at HCIL has been closed." There was no forewarning nor any reason given.

Thank you for considering this testimony, please take it to heart.

Sincerely,
Peggy Chamberlain

Alc q

May M

Peggy Chamberlain
(Mary Chamberlain)

March 24, 2008

Senator Les Ihara, Jr. & Senator Suzanne Chun

RE: SCR200

Dear Senator Ihara & Senator Chun:

I am writing in support of SCR200 requesting the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living.

The Consumers of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living has not been providing services on the Big Island. Such as Independent Living Skills Training, Transportation, Assistive Technology, Technical Assistance and no support groups for the adults and youths with disabilities.

There have been many unnecessary employee terminations without any explanatory cause & resignations due to the mismanagement of the Executive Director of HCIL. To this day, there have been no replacements to fill these positions that are needed to continue to provide the services to consumers with disabilities in the community.

The deficits in program services for people with disabilities need to be improved or corrected.

I hope that this resolution will be considered so people with disabilities will continue to receive the proper support services to maintain their quality of life.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharlene Chaves
2340 Nohona Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



To Whom it May concern

I am writing to support the SCR200 For the Hawaii Center for Independent Living, My name is Merlin Dilipou I live in Hilo Hawaii, My former resident was in Pahoia Hawaii

The reason why I am writing this letter of testimony is due to lack of assistance from the case manager. I had a hard time communicating with her because she was absence constantly from her workplace, which put my health in danger, I have thyroid disorder and I need to take medication for it. During the summer of 2007 I have had to constantly videophone or go into her office to see her but she was either out of office or in a meeting, and constantly had to postpone appointments with me, I decided to contact a friend to ask her for suggestions, after I told her I had to drive 30 minutes both ways and had to rely on my ex boyfriend who had to waste gas on a high gas mileage on his SUV. I felt that it was unfair for him to spend at least 40 to 50 dollars round trip to get only one issue done, I then ended up asking a friend to help me transfer my file from Hilo to Pahoia so I can get my medication and my health can be a better priority for me. Now since then I have not asked for further assistance from HCIL until recently and so far the service has not met my needs.

HCIL needs to help better the service for people with disabilities and not just Deaf people but people who have health issues as well, or housing issues or any further informations I might need and she has not been providing the service since she has not been in the office. I am not justified with her service and request that HCIL be audited for better service.

I ask that HCIL be audited under the SCR200. Thank you for your time to read this testimony.

Sincerely
Merlin Dilipou

Hilo Hawaii



COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

March 25, 2008

SCR 200

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL
AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE HAWAII CENTERS FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING.

TO: Chair Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Vice chair Les Ihara

FR: Barbara fischlowitz-Leong, Retired Executive Director Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawaii, past President of DiverseAbilities, past chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council

I support this resolution and urge its passage.

My years of work experience and volunteer contributions to the disabilities community in Hawaii as well as being a person with a disability has given me a bird's eye view of many programs and activities. During the past five years services at Hawaii Centers for Independent Living have disappeared. The ATRC program and others have stopped referring clients to HCIL due to lack of response, clients being told such services as requested were no longer available and staff inability to follow through. Access to information about what programs and services are available has not been provided. Requests made to members of the board of directors they not bring forth any information either.

HCIL has been a member of DiverseAbilities since its inception (1996) and like all members of the organization holds a seat on the board of directors. HCIL benefits from programs provided through DiverseAbilities, but has been non responsive to request for information necessary to complete audits in a reasonable amount of time and to provide information necessary to complete reports for federal grants received. HCIL has been asked to appoint an individual to sit on the board for DiverseAbilities, but has not done so for the past several years.

Fiscal responsibility is primary to the success of programs from any organization. It is impossible to receive an up to date copy of the persons serving on the HCIL Board of directors or to be given financial information – all of which are usually provided willingly be a functioning non profit.

As President of the Affordable Housing and Homeless Alliance the board has been told by staff that they also have not been able to get services that normally would be provided by an independent living center.

SCR 200

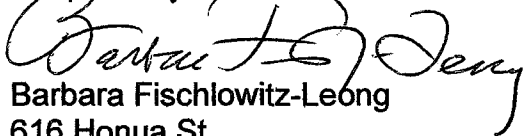
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL
AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE HAWAII CENTERS FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING.

Clients are desperately in need of services that are provided by Part A and Part B funds. How that money is expended is explicit in the law and yet services providers and clients are asking -where are the services and programs.

A good non profit would welcome an audit and would welcome input from the community that it serves to ensure resources are been used to benefit the persons for whom the money is intended. The conflict that has escalated in this state over what types of services, amount of services, staff qualifications, community involvement and the overall environment now being presented by this non profit warrants an audit and a review of services and programs. The federal and state money provided in the past has exceeded two million dollars and the organization historically did additional fund raising so that services and programs would be stellar. HCIL has historically been the leader for teaching independent living skills and promoting impendence for persons with disabilities. The board of directors would surely support the audit so that they can meet their fiduciary obligation.

I urge passage of this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong

616 Honua St.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

7390093

barbinhawaii@gmail.com

PETER L. FRITZ
2229 COOPER ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822
808-532-7118

**THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2007**

**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
Hearing March 25, 2008
Testimony on SCR 81**

Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and Management Audit of
The Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, members of the Committee:

I strongly support SCR 200.

I am an attorney practicing in Hawaii and testifying as a concerned citizen. I have personal knowledge of the disability community because of my own disability and the disability of a family member and my service on the State Rehabilitation Advisory Committee ("RAC"). The members of the RAC were consumers, service providers and members of organizations providing services to the disabled. The purpose of the RAC was to evaluate how well the needs of the disabled were being met and to provide recommendations for improvement. Independent audits of programs were conducted and the results of those audits were used to improve programs. A well run organization has nothing to fear from an audit. Other organizations can only benefit by identification of areas that need improvement.

Hawaii Centers for Independent Living ("HCIL") is a nonprofit organization that receives Federal and State funds to provide services to help individuals with disabilities achieve independence. I am aware that questions have arisen regarding how well the organization is being managed and whether these services are being adequately provided.

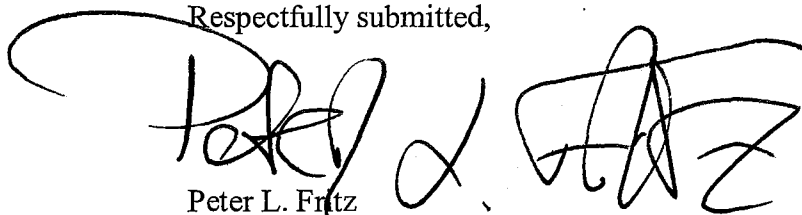
An audit should be conducted for the following reasons.

- The audit would answer the question of whether the HCIL is providing adequate services to consumers.
- An audit would determine if changes are required and if the services are being provided as required the contract.
- An audit would end the tension that currently exists by providing an answer to whether the services are adequate. It would enable services to be provided more efficiently if the conflict were eliminated.
- An audit would reveal whether the HCIL has complied with the requirements of Federal and State law such as timely filing of reports with government entities.
- An audit would examine whether the organization is complying with applicable Federal and State laws that govern the operation of nonprofit organizations.

- An audit would protect the State of Hawaii. HCIL receives substantial federal funds (upon information and belief in the federal funds are in excess of \$600,000) in addition to State Funds. If the funds are not spent on the required programs or if the required services are not being provided, the State of Hawaii could be required to repay the Federal government for the misspent funds. The State of Hawaii has a responsibility to ensure that the funds are spent on the required programs and an audit would confirm this fact or point out any deficiencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter L. Fritz", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name "Peter L. Fritz".

Peter L. Fritz

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Donald Kauila Haumea
1370 Ululani St Apt #15
Hilo, HI 96720

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

I am in support of auditing HCIL because of the lack of services that I am not receiving.

In the past they have provided a computer for me but haven't given me any computer classes so that I may use it correctly.

I need the computer to communicate ^{better} with other people because of my ^{lack of} sight, ¹ speech and other physical difficulties.

It has been over a year since I have received any services from HCIL.

The last walk ^{I did} was 3 years ago but they have not sponsored the event for ¹⁰⁵ 2 years. I wasn't supported. I ~~am~~ ^{wasn't} properly supported when I did it.

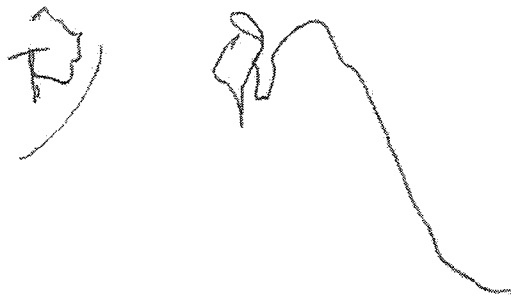
I was a mentor for the ^{HOIL} youth group, for almost a year
I was ~~reprimanded~~ ^{reprimanded} ~~it~~ ^{it} was not handled properly.
~~I feel~~ I think it could have been
handled better because I feel like they were
attacking me.

I have been part of the HOIL support group
since 1994 and these last 2 years there has
been nearly zero support for our group on Hawaii.

In the past I have received newsletters.
I couldn't read them because of my limited ^{eye} sight.
Emails are easier to read because my computer
has a screen reader.

Please audit HOIL and reinstate the
needed support for us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a long, sweeping line that curves downwards and to the right.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Sam Torkelson
101 Aupuni St apt 808
~~Hilo~~ Hilo, HI 96720

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

I am in support of an audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living. Many services used to be provided by CIL, but since Pat Lockwood took over most were deleted. There are no more Christmas parties, no transportation to doctor appts and events, no swimming, no field trips. In the past there was much socializing, going to parks, pot lucks, seeing and hearing devices. Magazines to order from for the things we needed. We went on charity walks to raise money for CIL. ^{now} We help each other because CIL is not providing any services at all. I want to know where all the money is going that CIL receives to provide services for us. I first began receiving services 21 years ago, so I've seen just about everything that went on. This is the worst I have ever seen things run at CIL since Pat Lockwood took over. Please do the audit of CIL.

Sam Torkelson



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Emily J. Souza
35 Kapiolani Street, Apt. #5
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

HIL provided me with a large print address book, a large print datebook, and large print packets of information. Nobody has that now. HIL gave me a talking watch which unfortunately irritated my skin. I had to buy a talking key chain from Maxi Aids on the mainland. I requested a large print address from HIL last year & they just gave me the mn card. I got a call from someone with the Honolulu CIL who said they would look around to find one & then offered to make one up. I never got either one. When you call & ask for services they don't know what the heck they're talking about. I'm not sure if they're dumb or what. They don't know beans of what you're talking about. Even though you are handicapped, when you do need help you turn to CIL & there is no help. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony

Sincerely,

Emily J. Souza

Francine Aona Kenyon

dba KULI IKE KOKUA

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 4:30 pm
Conference Room 016

**TESTIMONY
TO
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
ON
SCR 200, REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT
AUDIT OF THE HAWAII CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

ALOHA, Chair Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Senator Les Ihara, Sen. Gary Hooser, Senator Norman Sakamoto, and Senator Fred Hemmings, and Friends,

My name is Francine Kenyon. I am a long-time advocate and volunteer consultant for deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind people of the State of Hawaii.

I strongly support SCR 200, requesting the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living because of three important reasons: (1) full independence; (2) provision of better quality of services and programs; and (3) well-managed, qualified programmatic staff.

Kuli Ike KOKUA is a private volunteer-based, woman-owned business that include consulting, teaching, fostering and promoting full independence, providing technical assistance, and so forth. The goal of Kuli Ike KOKUA is to help deaf people achieve their dreams that will lead them to successful careers and to ensure themselves of their civil rights as mandated by Americans with Disabilities Act, Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other federal and state laws.

I am here only to testify as an individual and advocate on behalf of deaf and disabled communities.

I received many anguish, emotional calls from deaf consumers and consumers with disabilities in Hawaii. With my tears in my eyes, I encouraged them to file their complaints with the Vocational Rehabilitation Division because they contract the Hawaii Center on Independent Living; therefore, HCIL is expected to satisfy the Vocational Rehabilitation scope of services in their contract agreement.

Consumers with disabilities, including those who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, have the right to receive appropriate services and programs so, therefore, the Hawaii Center on Independent Living is expected to meet their needs, not to turn them away, to close their cases, and to refer them to other agencies or churches that do not have specific programs to meet their needs as individuals with disabilities.

It was very sad to see how individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing and individuals with disabilities have struggled for so long in their encounters with Hilo CIL and with HCIL here in Honolulu. I heartily and strongly feel that they really desperately need your support in ensuring that they receive the full satisfaction of services and programs, maximizing their full

independence in our society as the first-class citizens. On behalf of deaf and disabled communities, we are concerned about the HCIL's possible violation of their civil rights and labor laws as mandated by Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Dept. of Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation Act, Title VII.

It is important that the financial and management of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living be fairly handled to ensure that the full services and programs for individuals with disabilities are met and that the Board of Directors be strengthened in order to guarantee better quality of services and programs for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

I believe that the passage of this resolution is very important to our entire general community to assure the full satisfaction among the consumers with disabilities, including the consumers who are deaf and hard-of-hearing, as well as among the employees at the workplace.

Mahalo nui loa for your great support of this resolution on the behalf of our community serving people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Francine Aona Kenyon

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM:

Sumie W. Koni
344 AINA OLA DR
HILO HI 96720

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

TIME: 4:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

When I moved from Honolulu to Hilo in 1989, Karen who worked for CIL helped me get an Aladdin electronic reader which magnified the letters 25 times. CIL did not pay for the reader although I understand ~~today~~ that CIL would have paid a small portion of it for me. About four years ago when "Sam" Nagasawa ran the program for the elderly blind, I was able to buy a Merlin electronic reader. Again, I had to pay for the whole thing.

Sumie W. Ron p. 2 March 25, 2008

reader. Under Sam's leadership, we meet once a month, sometimes planning the agenda for the next meeting, or for the whole year, sometimes we'd suggest speakers for our meetings. Sam would xerox materials, such as glaucoma, identity theft, etc.

Under the new leadership of Patricia Lockwood, nothing has been done for the elderly blind ~~or~~ or those with low vision. We have not had any meetings whatsoever. We have not been asked to sign for vision testing by Hoopono. once a year either. We who are blind or have low vision are left to fend for ourselves.

Sumie W. Ron

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Laura McGerty
94 Panaewa Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

I fell off a horse & hit my head so now I have a tendency to stagger & fall. I would like help getting ready to go out, put on some make up & attend the support group meeting. I'm the only person I know who's disabled. Coming together with others is a real treat. I can't get a cab to pick me up because of my speech defect because they think I'm drunk.

On Maui I got a device to elevate the toilet seat from HCIL. I thought that was wonderful, my couch and all my chairs are on bricks.

I need more help now because I am older. I live independently, don't have medical, don't have food stamps. I could really use some help, I called CIC, they were very cold on the phone & said no. I'm easily put off.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Sincerely,

Laura McGerty

testimony

From: Mark T. Obatake [eqaccess@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2008 9:13 AM
To: testimony
Cc: 'Francine Wai'
Subject: Testimony for COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING - Tuesday, March 25, 2008 - 4:30 p.m.

Mark T. Obatake
94-1062 Kahimoe Place
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

March 21, 2008

The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SCR 200 relating to Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and Management Audit of Hawaii's Independent Living Center

Dear Honored Chair Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Committee Members:

As the former Executive Director of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living (HCIL) and a person with a disability, I strongly recommend the passage of SCR 200 with no amendments, relating to Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and Management Audit of Hawaii's Independent Living Center. The resolution will strengthen the the implementation of needed services for people with disabilities in Hawaii.

Approximately six years ago, I retired from HCIL due to progressive fatigue from my neuromuscular condition. When I left HCIL, the agency was a lighthouse in the community. The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), the federal agency that oversees all centers for independent living (CIL), commended HCIL on an in-depth program review just prior to my retirement. The National Council on Independent Living had presented an award to HCIL for our lead efforts with DiverseAbilities, a collaboration of four non-profit organizations in Hawaii. DiverseAbilities was also recognized as a trend-setting initiative by the Aloha United Way and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. We also had full collaboration, operational and financial support, with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Adult and Community Care Services, the Center on Disability Studies, the Disability and Communication Access Board, the Hawaii Disability Rights Center, and a host of national, regional, and local organizations. It was a privilege to be an advocacy agency in Hawaii that elicited so much respect from colleagues and adversaries alike.

In terms of direct services, the wide range of services delivered included Information and Referral, Outreach to Underserved Populations, Intake and Assessment Services, Peer Counseling, Independent Living Skills Training, Rehabilitation Technology, Individual Advocacy, Housing Assistance, Personal Care Attendant Referral, Transportation, Children and Youth Services, Prevention Services, Community Awareness Services, and Volunteer Services. When the consumer's independent living plan required outside professional services, HCIL contracted for sign and tactile language interpretation, orientation and mobility services, psychological counseling, physical and occupational therapy, speech pathology assessment, assistive technology services and training, prosthesis and orthotic devices, architectural drafting, and motor vehicle conversion. There are accounts given by consumers that many of these services are no longer provided.

3/22/2008

One of the management criteria established by RSA for CIL's is to rely less on federal funding and to broaden the funding base. When I was given the position as Executive Director, our funding capacity was 90% federal and 10% other. Over the years of building solid work relationships and collaborating on innovative ideas, we were able to generate an annual budget in excess of \$2 million; the ratio was 76% federal and 24% other. The success of attracting new funding was dependent on delivering stated outcomes and establishing mutually beneficial relationships. Our integrity was something that funding sources were willing to bank upon. Without exceptional networking abilities, collaborative funding cannot be obtained. It would be interesting to see what the ratio of federal to other funds is today.

HCIL is one of the FEW consumer-controlled organizations, and it is the ONLY center for independent living in Hawaii. While other states have multiple CIL organizations, the single entity status of HCIL in Hawaii is a privilege that needs constant diligence. The closure of RSA's regional offices places a ridiculous burden on the central federal office to monitor all of the CIL's. RSA program and management visits occurs every five years at best, and if there are any corrective actions requested from those visits, follow-up by the central office is currently inconsistent. State funds are contracted by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and I would meet with the DVR administrator and program manager on a quarterly basis to discuss HCIL's operation. It is my understanding that this is not occurring now. HCIL was also a recipient of four islands' United Way (UW) funds. While the amount was small, one of the benefits of this association was additional oversight. United Way was one of the pioneers for addressing program outcomes. If an organization wanted UW funds, they would need to advance through a lengthy application, program reporting and review process. It is my understanding that HCIL has not applied for most, if not all, of the UW funding.

As a past administrator, I welcomed external scrutiny of the agency. I wanted to show the world how much HCIL served people in need and could be trusted with hard-earned public funds. An audit needs to be feared if you have something to hide, or it can be cheered if you want validation of work well done. It is my hope that your committee will pass SCR 200 without amendments. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Obatake

Kristy L. Pacheco
14-3361 Nanawale Blvd.
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

March 20,2008

To whom it may concern;

I am currently writing to support SCR200 auditing for Hawaii Center for Independent Living. My sole reason is for failure to provide adequate equipment for my home, I can not continue to rely on my family for certain issues I must rely on my own independent self being.

I was born and raised here in Hawaii, in the early days of Hawaii we had to rely on buddy systems when there natural disaster, I had to rely on my parents when I was a child, now that I am a adult and independent I want to be able to make my life easier and simple to provide for myself. We did not have alarms or equipments for the deaf back then, Now that we have the resources I am being denied it, I can not allow this to continue, my future is now resting on this community and the committee to resolve the issues that is impairing my future now.

There have been several issues regarding lack of assistance due to cancellations and denial of service which strongly has been upset and frustrated with the HCIL's lack of provision for services. I ask that this be resolved soon.

I strongly ask that the committee pass this SCR200 and resolve all issues for my future. I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony,

Sincerely
Kristy Pacheco

March 24, 2008

Committee on Human Services & Public Housing
Attention: Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008 @ 4:30 p.m.

RE: SCR-200 Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial & Management Audit of
the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Dear Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland:

It has been since December 2005 that I was terminated from my position as Neighbor Island Program Coordinator. I have worked at HCIL for 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ years and found that the management of the organization has been the worst that I have experienced.

HCIL has had a 100% turnover of accountants since Ms. Patricia Lockwood took her position as executive director. Under her leadership, she has created havoc among the staff and the operations has had it share of problems. It took me years to build a reputable reputation on the Big Island and since I left she has destroyed that. The consumers are the ones that are suffering the most as they are without any services.

The reason I was terminated was because "differences in management styles", per Ms. Lockwood's words. I believe it was due to retaliation because I informed her that the concerns of the neighbor island staff were to be presented to the Board since she was not making any efforts to meet with us to resolve the issues.

HCIL is a very needed service in the State of Hawaii but it needs new leadership to take it to the next level. The mission of providing support services to people with disabilities so they will be able to live independently in the community is a cost effective concept. People with disabilities are people and deserve an equal opportunity as everyone else.

Please listen to the consumers on services that are not being provided is an indication that something is wrong. HCIL needs to be investigated for their financial and management of the programs.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Tobosa".

Laura L. Tobosa

SCR200 – Requesting the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Hearing date: Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Hearing time: 4:30 p.m.

Dara Fukuhara
98-1951 A Kaahumanu Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

March 24, 2008

To the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing:

I'm writing as a concerned citizen of the community in support of SCR200 – Requesting the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living.

The audit will help identify corrected action to reverse the loss of staff, funding and services – not close the Center. I want to emphasize the need for a State audit by providing you the following:

- There has never been a federal RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration) financial audit. RSA conducts only federal program reviews. RSA is unsure of their next review of the Center. The last review of the Center was conducted on September 14 - 21, 2004. RSA does not have a response from the Center regarding the findings of the review on file, nor does the Department of Human Services, Division on Vocational Rehabilitation and SILC.

Federal program reviews are only about the RSA funding and are insufficient for monitoring the overall program. Oversight of the State's \$300,000 funding is not part of the federal review. RSA also does not review all of its independent living (IL) grantees every year, but a representative sample. Federal RSA offices must monitor 250-plus IL centers and they just closed regional offices; therefore, oversight is nearly non-existent.

- There has never been a state audit on the Center. The agency only submits periodic reports to the State and many of those reports are missing. In the 704, Part II report from the Center, there is erroneous information. Statistical information reported by the Center in the report is stated that the numbers can't be confirmed since there may have been a "glitch in their system." When a federal report contains such obvious omissions and incomplete reporting, one cannot but wonder about the validity of the other information presented.

- A state audit can determine whether or not the state investment of approximately \$300,000 is being spent appropriately. The Center's director has stated repeatedly that HCIL has lost monies and will seek additional monies from the Legislature to increase IL services. However, unless the state knows how the \$300,000 is already being spent, there can be no reason to justify additional monies from the legislature. Federal funds are not likely to increase, which will make the pressure on the state to augment funding in the future. If we are truly interested in increasing IL services, then we need justification beyond consumer demands.

With only ONE Center, the state essentially is faced with sole source procurement. Thus, we must ensure that our money is being appropriately spent and the disabled community is provided with a breadth of IL services.

In summation, I strongly support SCR200 and urge the members of this committee to do so as well.

Regards,

Dara Fukuhara

testimony

From: kuulei [kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 8:27 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 200

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 200
Requesting An Audit of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

TO: The Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

FROM: Ku'ulei A. Kilonia
Former consumer of Hilo's Center for Independent Living
kuuleikiliona@hawaii.rr.com

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016

Dear Chair, Chun Oakland, Vice Chair, Ihara and Committee Members,

This testimony is in strong support of SCR 200, requesting an audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living (CIL).

I have received services from CIL from 1991 up until a few years ago; shortly after Pat Lockwood the current director took charge. I received services in Hilo, on Oahu and on Kauai.

The services I received were:

Assistance in locating housing.

Annual appointments with an eye specialist.

We were given durable medical equipment that we needed.

We were supplied with many different supports to help us live independently.

Specific types of different support group meetings.

Holiday parties though out each year, with entertainment and gifts from local merchants.

Regular times of fellowship with other people who had disabilities.

Consumers did annual charity walks to raise money for CIL.
Provided a free lunch or dinner on outings and special occasions,
We had speakers that addressed us regarding information that impacted us.
A monthly newsletter to keep us informed on a variety of topics from different sources including the latest medical information and info on each other in our respective support group.
Help in locating chore workers and other home health care workers.

As of this date, services I once received are no longer available to me.
I was sent a letter from CIL informing me that my file had been closed. I did not ask for the file to be closed. The letter said to contact them if or when I needed services. I have been contacting them for about 3 years, asking for services. No response.

At the beginning of last year in Hilo, the support group for people with low vision and/or blindness requested on two occasions that Pat Lockwood meet with us to explain what happened to the services we were receiving. We gave a month's advance notice of the meeting. Although Pat sent word that she would attend, she did not meet with us. What she did was to send us a person with a disability whom **we could not adequately communicate with**. This person, Ms. Ho'ohuli, a deaf person, took a long list of questions and concerns that the group had drafted for Pat Lockwood. We never received a response, but were "told" by Ms. Ho'ohuli that our list did go to Pat Lockwood. Months later we discovered that Pat Lockwood was counting the meetings we were putting together ourselves as meetings that CIL had set up.

Several of us in the low vision/blind support group gave testimony in favor of an audit of CIL last year at the legislature. Those of us in the group who had given testimony all received letters from CIL informing us that our files had been closed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

Ku'u lei A. Kilion

testimony

From: Louise Horio [smahtcookie@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 3:59 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR 200 Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Senator Chun-Oakland, Chair

From: Louise Horio, President, Hui Kupuna VIP
99-691 Kaulainahee Place
Aiea, HI 96701

Re: SCR 200

To: Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator S. Chun-Oakland, Chair

Senator L. Ihara, Vice-Chair

March 24, 2008

I am Louise Horio, representing Hui Kupuna VIP, Senior Group of Visually Impaired Persons.

We are not in support of SCR 200. HCIL has helped us by providing an accessible place to hold our growing membership for our monthly meetings. This room is where we can speak out safely and support one another on issues for the Older Blind. Having that room allows us to invite speakers and explore community resources to keep us living independently.

With the support of HCIL, we do our own outreach projects to other people in need. This gives us enormous satisfaction that we are able to focus on others besides ourselves and lend them a helping hand.

HCIL has provided an IL Specialist to help us with running off materials that we may need and offering to help us put things in Braille or audio-tape. She is also available as an advisor if and when we need one.

Having a regular place to meet is most conducive to our well being and gives us a sense of belonging and gives validation to the independent living objectives of our group.

We cannot understand why this audit is necessary at this time. HCIL had a Federal audit last year. There was a hearing at the Legislature last year also and there was no fault found. Maybe our hard-earned tax monies could be better spent elsewhere.

If you have any questions,
you may contact me at home by phone or email.

Home phone: 488-0179

Email: smahtcookie@hawaiiantel.net

Thank you very much.

Most Respectfully,

/s/ Louise Horio
President, Hui Kupuna VIP

ChunOakland2 - Alisha

From: Charlene Ota [charleneo@pacificil.org]

Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 1:37 PM

To: Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.; Sen. Gary Hooser; Sen. Norman Sakamoto; Sen. Fred Hemmings

Subject: Re: Testimony in Opposition of SCR 200

Honorable Senator Chun-Oakland and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony in opposition of SCR 200. I was a member of the Board of Directors of HCIL for 5 years, the last two of which I was the Chair of that Board. I recently resigned from the Board of Directors in order to become an employee of HCIL. Why would I want to become an employee of HCIL, you might ask? Several reasons follow:

After serving on the Board of Directors, I had the opportunity to learn just what the Independent Living movement is all about, principles I've stood for all of my life as a person with a disability. Promoting opportunity for people with disabilities to live and work and play in the community where they live as an active participant in society.

HCIL has been striving to give people with disabilities their own voice and the confidence to make their views known in our community.

I wanted to become an active part of the advocacy, the peer support, the information referral, and all of the other assistance that we continue to provide to people with disabilities throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Our books are audited annually and the Federal government audits our program regularly as well. I am asking that, rather than putting funds toward yet another audit when our records are all available to you already, that you put funds toward helping us find affordable housing for the many, many people with disabilities who come through our doors needing affordable places to live; that you put funding toward the many requests we receive for equipment that is needed to help people with disabilities live independently; that you continue to support education and expand opportunities for people with disabilities to live, work and play more freely and effectively in our communities.

Remember our 5 core services: information and referral, individual advocacy, peer networking, independent living skills training and systems advocacy. Visit our offices on any of the islands and this is what you'll find us doing every day and this is what we are mandated to do every day.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Charlene Ota

3/24/2008

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-chair
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 4:30 PM

Opposing SCR200, Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and management Audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living

Hawaii Centers for Independent Living is a non-profit organization operated by and for people with disabilities to ensure their rights to live independently and fully integrated in the community of their choice, outside of institutional care settings. As a non-profit, statewide resource, HCIL serves people of any age with any type of disability. HCIL was founded on the historical constitutional beliefs of civil rights and the empowerment of people with disabilities to have equal access, opportunities, and choices in life, no matter how severe their disability.

We oppose SCR200, Requesting the Auditor to Conduct a Financial and management Audit of the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living.

SCR200 is nearly identical to last session's SCR81, which was deferred in a House committee. Its introducers have made only minor wording changes. We do not feel that this audit is any more warranted now than it was then. Rather, we believe that SCR200 represents a lack of understanding of the processes involved in receiving services from a center for independent living, which are outlined in federal rules and regulations. As an example, many of those who complained last year about not receiving services were not active consumers of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living. Because of federal laws regarding confidentiality, we are not allowed to comment on such erroneous testimony. We believe that the Legislature is not the appropriate forum in which to resolve these matters.

In the past year, Hawaii Centers for Independent Living has significantly upgraded its services on the Neighbor Islands, adding new advocates on both Maui and the Big Island. We are also exploring ways to better deliver independent living services to the island of Moloka'i. As you may have noticed, we are also becoming more active here at the Legislature, with a new legislative committee formed within our Board of Directors. In Hilo, we are in the process of completing what we believe will be the first of many transitions of people from nursing homes to community-based care. This hardly fits the description in SCR200 of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living as "lacking continuity in services".

In this year of tight financial constraints, we would hope that funding services for people with disabilities, such as affordable and accessible housing, accessible transportation, and moving people out of hospitals into the community, would take priority over this unnecessary audit.

We urge the committee not to pass SCR200. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Maile Paongo
Private address
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. At first I went to DCAB. They still want me to do on my own and not explained me everything. I still don't understand what they tried explained me. I was not very happy and depressed until one of my friend from Postal recommended me to visit HCIL. My friend know how I feel because I almost lost and give up my civil right. I have no idea what is HCIL. I went to HCIL and surprised wow they taught me how to fight my civil rights. I'm so happy and feel so much better. DCAB didn't tell me about HCIL and not doing things for me. DCAB didn't explain to other court about my need. Not helped me at all. I still don't understand why they hide it from me.

Aloha,

Maile K. Paongo

Maile Paongo

Norybell Aradanas

Private address
Honolulu, HI 96826

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

4:30 PM

Conference Room 016

**Opposed the SCR200 bill to request the Auditor
To conduct a financial and program audit of
HAWAII'S INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER**

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I love HCIL because they did teach me to become an independent skill. HCIL took me to the Alaska to participate with the Youth Program. I was very afraid and always followed a staff. A HCIL staff instructed me to speak out and use a better judgment when I faced some new participant. Finally, I did broke my ice to speak my own voice in front of my father because I always afraid of him and ordered me to chore the house and demand me to give him all my hard earning money. Now I have enough money on my own. I thanked to HCIL that I got my own independent skill. I also keep on continue to visit the HCIL to get some help whenever I need. My favorite people at the HCIL are Pat Lockwood and Cheryl Mizusawa. They are very very good patient and very strong supporting to the deaf community.

Aloha,

Norybell Aradanas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norybell Aradanas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Hilda Lopez

Private address
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Wahiawa, I am deaf private citizen. I am fine and comfortable with the HCIL service. I go HCIL for over 30 years. No problem with them.

Aloha,


Hilda Lopez

Juan Lopez

Private address
Wahiawa, HI 96786

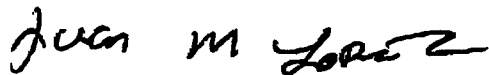
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I am fine and comfortable with the HCIL service. One thing, I want to tell you that a deaf staff helped to communicate with my long lost sister that I never communicate with her for 13 years. I was so surprised that staff is able to communicate with my sister but difficult is because of Spanish language. Now HCIL is helping me how to fill out for American citizen.

Aloha,



Juan Lopez

Eulalia Pelep
Private Address
Honolulu, HI 96826

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I am a consumer with the HCIL. A deaf staff, Cheryl Mizusawa taught me the financial skill and independent living skill. I always depend on her how to pay the rental apartment, banking, social recreation, and independent living skill. Right now, I finally know how to take care all the expense that I need to learn. My parents never taught me because of communication. I thanked to Cheryl Mizusawa for all her hard working and helped me everything she had done for me. And now, Shana Shimizu is helping me because Cheryl is now a big boss.

Aloha,

Eulalia Pelep

Paia Paongo
Private address
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. At first I went to DCAB. They helped me some immigration a little. I depend on my wife to do because she is a good speaking english. My wife went to HCIL and got me what I really need. I thanked to Henry for what he already done for me. Now I'm happy to have a new driver license and taught me to learn many new things to become independent skills. I'm so happy and feel so much better. I am full trust with HCIL staffs.

Aloha;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paia Paongo', written in a cursive style.

Paia Paongo

Norman Galapin, Sr

Private address
Honolulu, HI 96823

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I am a volunteer at the HCIL. I helped senior citizen to communicate by Hawaiian Sign Language. They were very happy what I helped them. They were happy with what HCIL helped them to get a better service.

Last year, I went to the legislative and testify to the legislators. I asked one of hearing with my sign gesture and want to know what did Art Frank saying. I'm so upset why ASL interpreter, Debbie Jackson is not telling me the truth when Art mentioned two staff from HCIL. I lost my trust to the DCAB from now on. Legislative must hired a certificate ASL interpreter with no favors.

Aloha,



Norman Galapin, Sr

Teresita Hostallero

Private address
Honolulu, HI 96814

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

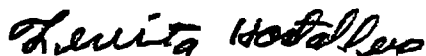
Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I want Representatives to know that HCIL has support my need for financial and medical service for many years. I am not a great english reader. I have ask one of HCIL staff to help me to read. This letter I ask someone to help me a testimony letter.

So as Deaf person I want you to know how important these services are for my need. Thank you for your taking time and listen my testimony.

Aloha,



Teresita Hostallero

Sharon Solomon

Private address
Honolulu, HI 96826

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

4:30 PM

Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I am a consumer with the HCIL. A deaf staff, Cheryl Mizusawa taught me the financial skill and independent living skill. I always depend on her how to pay the rental apartment, banking, social recreation, and independent living skill. Right now, I finally know how to take care all the expense that I need to learn. My parents never taught me because of communication. I thanked to Cheryl Mizusawa for all her hard working and helped me everything she had done for me. And now, Shana Shimizu is helping me because Cheryl is now a big boss.

Aloha,


Sharon Solomon

Harriet Uyeno
Pearl City, HI 96782

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30 PM
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

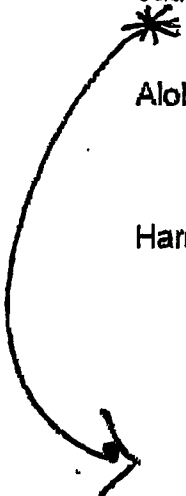
I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I like HCIL because I am very satisfied their service. I did asked one of the staff that I need equipment device.

Aloha,

Harriet Uyeno

Harriet Uyeno

*Why waste money ~~on~~ on
audit with HCIL??*



Alan Zheng
Private Address
Honolulu, Hi 96818

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30pm
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf U.S. citizen. I am a consumer with the HCIL. A deaf staff, Edmund Silva helping me the Doctor about ADA by Law for DA need Interpreter. And W2- Tax. They are very happy that HCIL good service to consumer. I thanked to Edmund Silva for all his hard working and helped me everything he had done for me. And now, Edmund Silva is helping me because Cheryl is now a big boss.

Aloha,

Alan Zheng

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Zheng".

Keyi H. Zheng
Private Address
Honolulu, Hi 96818

Tuesday, March 25, 2008
4:30pm
Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

To the Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Senator Les Ihara Jr, Vice Chair

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf U.S. citizen. I am a consumer with the HCIL. A deaf staff, Edmund Silva helping me the Doctor about ADA by Law for DA need Interpreter. And W2- Tax. They are very happy that HCIL good service to consumer. I thanked to Edmund Silva for all his hard working and helped me everything he had done for me. And now, Edmund Silva is helping me because Cheryl is now a big boss.

Aloha,

Keyi H. Zheng

Keyi H. Zheng

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

4:30 PM

Conference Room 016

Opposed the SCR200 bill

Honorable Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Honorable Vice-Chair Les Ihara, and the members of the Department of Human Services and Public Housing Committee,

My name is Honor Ipelena and I am a resident of Maui as well as a consumer of Hawaii Centers for Independent Living Maui. HCIL has helped me to live life more independently by assisting me with applications for Public Housing and Affordable Housing. HCIL has given me resources for financial assistance and many other services due to my disability. When I had gone to other agencies for help especially if I didn't understand the forms I had before me I received no help but when I went to see Clytie Nishihara at HCIL Maui, she helped me to understand the forms and I was able to fill those forms out properly. Therefore, HCIL is a very much needed service for people with disabilities.

I am strongly oppose SCR 200 because it is a waste of time and money to call an audit on a program like HCIL. I would like to suggest that these monies be put to better use like creating more affordable housing units since our Islands have so much homeless and on our island Maui as well as Molokai and Lanai these monies can help with accessible transportation and providing equipment and devices to help people with disabilities to become more independent.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely
Honor Ipelena
HCIL Maui Consumer

