

LATE

TESTIMONY OF ELIZABETH HAWS CONNALLY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WAYS AND MEANS
April 4, 2008
10:05 A.M.
Conference Room 211

SCR 200, SD1

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

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Elizabeth Haws Connally. I am an attorney with the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing. My firm represents Hawaii Centers for Independent Living ("HCIL").

We wanted to bring to your attention the fact that the Attorney General is currently investigating many of the issues stated in this measure. The HCIL is already working with the Attorney General to address these concerns.

Specifically, HCIL's Board of Directors is working closely with the Attorney General with the goal of: (1) identifying and correcting any possible internal financial irregularities; (2) resolving public concerns about HCIL's internal operations; and (3) ensuring the best possible services to the members of the community entitled to assistance from HCIL in accordance with all grant and contract requirements.

HCIL would request this Committee to allow HCIL to utilize its resources to respond to the Attorney General's investigation and update the Committee upon request after resolution of the Attorney General's inquiry.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony on this important matter.

testimony**LATE**

From: bobby harris [bobbyjoe60@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 1:47 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SCR200 37 SD 1 TESTIMONY

SCR200 37 SD 1
 TESTIMONY FOR SUPPORT FOR AUDIT

ALOHA, my name is bobby harris i am hard of hearing and i am a resident of oahu, i would like to put my support forward for audit for HCIL and for and to improve the services. and also to make changed on the staffing at HCIL i do not trust two of the staff who are presently working there. those are cheryl misuzawa and patricia lockwood. and also charlene these people are a threat to our deaf community and are not able to do this job. and i dont also trust cheryl because is unlicensed and not carrying a degree of a BA or MA from gallaudet university for the deaf based in washington D.C on the mainland. she has not completed her studies and her degree programs. to work with deaf clients and HCIL has illegally hired this woman and she has only a grammar english and does not understand the function of the job description and abuses the authority of the on the job daily and she has already fired a number of people illegally by abuse and false accusations that she also placed against those she opposed and HCIL is being held under her influence i am fearing that she has a serious plot to ruin the name of HCIL and make people leave. and to avoid the center for independent living one of the reasons is she is taking and using the deaf for her own advantage and to get what she wants she thinks she is in full authority of everthing and she threatens people and scare them into submission to her actions. this is totally unacceptable for this office.

also cheryl misuzawa also has been taking too many vacations and flying all over the place including the mainland that is not her job to do that she has no control over any other agencies. or any other independent living centers. either on other island or on mainland she said she was planning a trip to texas to a independent living center there this isn't her job either she no authority to go there unless asked to do so but wasnt asked to go there neither was she invited there, this is also found to be illegal. she is getting this monies to buy all these plane tickets and flying everywhere she goes and there has been a serious statement rumor that she has been to las vegas nevada. and purchased a MGM dinners for groups she appeared to have hosted and she also has spended money on a deaf cruise she was seen on the ship. having fun partying or something this is totally illegal we have wondered where she got all that money from and we felt she used HCIL agency money and abused and stolen it to waste it all on these unnecessary items paid for,

i therefore ask that it be searched and investigated. strictly she remain in town and not allow her to leave the island and she should be under serveillance of what she may be doing i want to see more improvements in HCIL and for the deaf community thier safety is a strong priority. and a safe enviroment for our deaf consumers. and we should have a center for the deaf only and ONLY deaf staffing who knows the deaf culture and have knowledge how to communicate with the deaf in sign language. and also who does know how to use a TDD/TTY and. relay calls and also VP video phone communications. and i ask that these people who are abusing those be removed from the offices and as of now i am hearing that cheryl and charlene are acting directors by the board and i do not approve of this. cheryl has no experience with this job position. without the degree and certification to be a director of any program whatsoever she should not be allowed to get away with it. and neither does charlene who is also now acting director under cheryl misuzawa this is serious and offensively wront to do this. this jeopardizing things even worse i am asking PLEASE to consider them a threat to the deaf and to the center for independent living centers. and to have her and charlene removed because cheryl never comes in to work on time and is playing around. and never pays attention either i want to thank each of you for taking this serious matters into a careful consideration for this our sake and our safety is a priority right now. i speak for all of the deaf in the community.

thank you for your understanding and this serious allegations that are being committed. by the persons listed on

4/4/2008

this testimony statement. and thank you for taking the time to consider options we and I hope that you will do something as soon as possible to solve this.

SINCERELY YOURS

BOBBY JOE HARRIS JR

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

LATE

April 2, 2008

Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing my testimony on SCR200 SD1. Recently SCR200 passed from the committee which brought you to the ways and means committee. In my full support I am requesting the ways and means pass the SCR200 SD1 calling for the audit of Hawaii Center for Independent Living. I am a concerned citizen from the big island of Hawaii, my concern with lack of service and lack of employees being present at the HCIL leaves an alarming concern for me as well as others.

I have requested several services over the period of time with no constraints in the beginning, during the time of service it lacked time consistency where a time frame was established to ensure that the service was met on a certain deadline. The last deadline was October of 2007 as I requested 2 additional lights and still haven't received these. Previous request was my fire alarm I requested in April of 2007 and received it early October of 2007, The agreement was to ensure the delivery in a timely manner and that has been lacked due to "budget" as Cheryl Miskasusa said, HCIL could not order nor could they provide the necessary means for my fire alarm.

I then also had to deal with several of other people who also had to deal with delays and concerns. The community of east Hawaii deaf citizen met with both Cheryl Miskasusa and Charlene Hoohuli to address the delays and the concerns for those who could not afford to drive out to Hilo Hawaii and also to discuss the equipments being unable to deliver, a first time father dealing with frustrations of cancellations, a health issue client who had to rely on someone else to ensure her medical needs were met, a client who had to request housing assistance and did not receive them with friendly needs as Ms Hoohuli did not meet the needs with lack of knowledge stating that housing was not accommodating those who were disabled or Deaf, in all aspects of this. HCIL lacked the service we sorely need.

Now that the support group for the Disabled was dissolved they too are stuck in a situation where the needs are also not being met. I feel for those people who could not get the support group, meet with the people who want to move further in life. Those who want to meet other people to express their frustrations. Transportations also were no help for those who need it the most. Where can we find peace of mind if the HCIL can not provide the proper support when it's needed? HCIL needs to accommodate the people and respect the Hawaiian spirit.

In closing I ask that the Ways and Means committee please pass the SCR200 SD1 and help the community bring back the spirit of aloha.

Sincerely

Desiree Bartlett

Big Island Deaf Community Advocate.

testimony

From: cecilia Manettas [ceci160@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2008 12:00 AM
To: testimony; ceci160@hotmail.com
Subject: HCIL audit - SRC200

LATE

Cecilia Manettas
HCIL - Hawaii Center for Independent Living
SRC 200
April 04, 2008

Employment Dates:
HCIL Data Entry Temporary - 03/2004 - 11/2004
HCIL Administrative Assistant, Accounting Clerk and Payroll 08/2005-05/2007

I am in favor of the audit of HCIL.

I am a witness of to may financial and managerial improprieties by Patricia Lockwood.

1. The office van was never used for consumers, it was used by the office staff;
2. Patricia Lockwood yelled at staff in front of everybody often;
3. Patricia Lockwood received per Diem to business trips never completed (never returned the money);
4. Patricia Lockwood schedule travels and always missed the flights, Rebecca from Travel Professionals - Hilo, HI would have to reschedule all them (always paying 2 or 3 times more than necessary);
5. Patricia Lockwood HCIL credit card rarely had receipts. She rarely give the receipts for credit card charges;
6. Last time there was a request for audit she flew specifics consumers to testify in her favor.

Please contact me if any further information is necessary.

Thank you

Cecilia Manettas

Going green? [See the top 12 foods to eat organic.](#)

Kristy L. Pacheco
Nanawale Blvd.
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

LATE

April 2nd 2008

Dear Sir or Madam;

I am writing you in full support of the SCR200 SD1. As in my previous testimony, I face each day with struggles to support myself independently. My concerns for the HCIL service is high. I have watched this agency go from a wonderful agency to a agency that I do not recognize anymore. I have requested for 2 different services, one, for housing during summer of 2007, and assistance devices for my needs. I received my alarm and my fire alarm and when I requested for 2 more flashers for my receivers with intent to use these in my living room and in another room where I usually occupied, I was denied. Cheryl Misaskua and Charlene Hoohuli said I can only have two devices from the HCIL agency, I knew from other people who have received the devices they requested several additional receivers with no problems. I questioned Charlene Hoohuli and she informed me that I was limited to two assistance devices and I already had received another device from ISG (island Skills gathering) which had I then realized that the services that I was being provided for was unacceptable.

The services I received was unacceptable on 2 merits, one the lack of services with no employees in the office to provide my needs, and 2 inadequate services where I was not receiving my requested needs. I want HCIL to be audited for these reasons. To ensure there is a better service and to accommodate my needs when I request them. I ask that the staff remain on the respected islands and not to have costly flights to Oahu and mainland when the island clients such as myself are in greater needs at this time.

We the deaf community who have jobs and who are not working have to struggle during the daily lives where gas is a factor when driving to work or to appointments, to realize we can not waste our gas due to high cost of living that is impairing our futures. I also ask that the committee realize thirty minute drive one way is a heavy burden on us, and last minute cancellation is harsh on our needs. We spend at least hundred dollars a week (for the working women and men) on our gas, and time is a value asset to us. When that is not being met, it frustrates us to no end. Those who do not work also have to be frugal with gas and budgeting on fundings we get on a monthly stipends. We do not ask for much but want to be respected for what we do, Deaf community has been dealing with negativity when it comes to looking for jobs or for better future. We get the raw end of the deal, and for us to finally achieve in our goals HCIL can do this without rejecting us, or turning their backs on our needs. When two people who are HCIL's troublesome asset to the community we can not trust these ladies to continue on with the issues at hand. We ask that the HCIL resolve the issues and to start relizing these ladies are not what aloha spirit is about, they want the money to travel and to try and cut our supports and services we sorely need on a daily basis.

In closing I ask that the committee make the SCR200 SD1 passable to the greater needs of the deaf community and for all disabled community, let's make it a unity, and help us find our goals and to achieve them.

Sincerely

Kristy Pacheco
Big island Deaf community Advocate