

chunoakland4

From: Kristine Castagnaro [kristine@hcee.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2008 9:09 AM
To: chunoakland4
Subject: SCR 92 SD1 Testimony

LATE

TO:
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

RE:
SCR 92 SD1 Testimony
Hearing, Thursday, Thursday, April 10, 2008

Dear Senator Chun Oakland,

As the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Council on Economic Education, I have committed my professional career to ensuring that Hawaii's keiki have the skills they need to make smart, informed choices in their lives.

Therefore, I support SCR 92 SD1 urging the State Legislature to establish the public financial education and asset-building task force. This task force would enable the state to bring all the stakeholders together to find new ways to deliver economic and financial education in effective and impactful ways.

Economic and financial education is crucial for families in Hawaii. It arms our residents with the essential skills needed in today's world where personal bankruptcies, predatory tactics, and fraudulent practices abound.

Sincerely,

Kristine Castagnaro

Date of Hearing: April 10, 2008

Committee: Senate Human Services
and Public Housing

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent

Title: SCR 92, SD1 Draft/SR 52, Urging the State Legislature to
establish the public financial education and asset-building task
force.

Purpose: To urge the State Legislature to establish the public financial
education and asset-building task force.

Department's Position: The Department of Education would like to comment on the
proposed Senate Draft 1 of SCR 92/SR 52, which would establish
a public financial education and asset-building task force.
One of the purposes of the task force is to develop a statewide
standard for financial and economic education for public and
private sector employees. Such standards and improving (public
and private sector employee) access to additional financial services
could greatly enhance the quality of life of many families in this
State.

The Department of Education supports SCR 92, SD1 Draft/SR 52.

LATE



For: ars, April 10
2:00 pm
Senate HSP

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

LATE TESTIMONY

April 10, 2008

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Senate Human Services and Housing Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii

RE: SCR 92 Urging the State Legislature to Establish the Public Financial Education and
Asset-Building Task Force - **SUPPORT**

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Human Services and Housing Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii (NASW). I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SCR 92 Urging the State Legislature to Establish the Public Financial Education and Asset-Building Task Force

Thank you for hearing this resolution.

As a member of the Department of Human Services Financial Assistance Advisory Council, we see the difficulties that policies often pose to those on public assistance. While these policies are meant to be helpful, some policies work against each other and actually pose challenges to families who are trying to become self sufficient. We need income-based policies to work in cooperation with asset-based policies to assist low-income families achieve financial independence.

Convening a task force to look at these policies and make recommendations will be beneficial in having a comprehensive, seamless, efficient system. We are encouraged at the list of agencies and departments requested to participate in the task force and are hopeful for a productive report.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of SCR 92.

LATE



Aloha United Way

April 10, 2008

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016

SCR 92, SD 1 – Support

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

Aloha United Way encourages your favorable consideration of SCR 92, SD 1 which creates a task force on financial education and asset building. The purpose of the task force will be to review existing education and asset building efforts and make recommendations in three areas: 1) Universal matched savings accounts for newborns, 2) Statewide standards for financial and economic education, and, 3) The elimination of asset limits for public benefit programs.

While our current “income-support” based welfare system is important to ensure our most needy are cared for, moving families from support to self-sufficiency requires a comprehensive set of asset building strategies – and matched savings, financial education and eliminating barriers to asset accumulation are powerful tools to target those who are emerging from reliance on state support programs.

In 2007, AUW commissioned a report by the University of Hawaii’s Center on the Family to look at the critical issue of Family and Individual Self-Sufficiency. We define self-sufficiency as the ability to meet basic needs without government or other subsidies. The report clearly shows the impact of the ever-increasing cost of living in Hawaii on a workforce that is less and less able to achieve self-sufficiency. For instance, the report shows that only two out of the top 25 occupations in Hawaii pay a self-sufficient wage – and those top 25 occupations include over 227,000 workers or 40% of Hawaii’s workforce.

SCR 92, SD 1 helps those in our community that are ready to emerge from reliance on state support and Aloha United Way encourages favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Susan Doyle

Susan Doyle
President & Chief Professional Officer