



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 24, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1429, H.D. 2 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE
ABOUT FACE PROGRAM**
Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2009; 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 1429, H.D. 2, is to appropriate TANF funds for Hawaii National Guard's About Face! family of programs for FY 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is in strong support of this measure.

The Department also respectfully requests that the \$28.2 million in TANF Federal funds restricted in the current State fiscal year 2009 budget be restored for the 2010-2011 biennium so that we can continue to fund the programs, services and benefits, including but not limited to the About Face! Family of programs, that have, among other positive outcomes, strengthened families and contributed to the reduction, by half, of

child re-abuse and neglect since 2005. This is neither the time to freeze Federal funds nor divert Federal funds from the investment we have made that is working so well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair and Members the Committee
Senate – Human Services Committee

In Support of H.B. 1429, H.D. 2 –MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE ABOUT FACE
PROGRAM

Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2009; 2:30 p.m., Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Testimony From: Grace Barrientos, MA, mental health service provider

I would like to state my strong support for H.B. 1429, H.D. 2.

As a service provider, I have referred youth to the About Face Family of Programs. Youth that have participated in these programs have graduated with a sense of hope for their future and have an increased skill level in the areas of work readiness, life, academic, and critical thinking. Youth gain a sense of responsibility and empowerment. In this program, I have witnessed youth develop better socialization skills by interacting with peers as well as interacting with Hawaii National Guard soldiers, who serve as role models and mentors.

The About Face Programs have proven to have positive outcomes not only for the youth, but for the families as well. As a result of this wonderful learning opportunity, families benefit from the positive experiences the youth have had. Families have expressed that the youth's self-worth has increased and that youth often graduate with a sense of accomplishment. At the end of the program, families are invited to the youth's graduation ceremony in honor of the youth.

This program offers a chance for youth to participate in a productive learning opportunity after-school and assists to deter youth from getting involved in crimes and/or drug use. The About Face Programs have served many youth, families, and communities producing positive and wonderful outcomes.

Once again, I would like to state my strong support for H.B. 1429, H.D. 2 – Making an appropriation for the About Face Program.

Signed,

Grace M. Barrientos