

Testimony of Sam Aiona
Executive Director
Office of Community Services, DLIR
Joint Legislative Hearing of

Senate Committee on Ways and Means & House Committee on Finance
August 18, 2009

Chair Oshiro, Chair Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance:

My name is Sam Aiona and I am the Executive Director at the Office of Community Services. The Office of Community Services (OCS) thanks your committees for holding this joint hearing on the biennial Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) State Application and Plan (State Plan) for Federal Fiscal Years 2011 & 2012. This legislative hearing is required under Section 676(a)(3) of the CSBG Act, as amended, to provide the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed use and distribution of CSBG funds in the State of Hawaii.

The CSBG is a federal, anti-poverty block grant that funds the operations of Hawaii's local network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs): Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP), Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC), Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) and Kauai Economic Opportunity (KEO). These CAAs utilize and leverage CSBG monies to fulfill the goals of the CSBG Act in Hawaii: (i) the reduction of poverty; (ii) the revitalization of low-income communities; and (iii) the empowerment of low-income families and individuals to become fully self-sufficient.

The Community Action Agencies accomplish these objectives through a wide array of programs, services, and advocacy that address the unique needs of low-income individuals, families and communities in their respective geographic service areas. For example, all CAAs provide much needed services such as Head Start and/or other child care, employment preparation and placement, case management, emergency food distribution and nutrition, energy assistance, shelter and housing assistance, immigrant acculturation projects, and employment creation initiatives, to name only a few. Additionally, each undertakes and leads innovative and unique initiatives that make a tremendous difference in their communities.

I would now like to turn OCS' testimony over to Dawn Hiramawa, Program Specialist for the CSBG program. She will present you with some examples of how our Community Action Agencies work in collaboration with their partners and the work that they do in the low income community.

Testimony of Dawn Hirakawa
Program Specialist
Office of Community Services, DLIR
Joint Legislative Hearing of
Senate Committee on Ways and Means & House Committee on Finance
August 18, 2009

Good afternoon Chair Oshiro, Chair Kim, and Members of the House Committee on Finance and Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House Committee on Finance.

My name is Dawn Hirakawa and I am the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Administrator and a Program Specialist at the Office of Community Services. For those of you who may not be familiar with the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program, it was a program started by Lyndon Johnson when he got the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 passed. LBJ declared the war on poverty back then and thereafter the formation of the designated Community Action Agencies followed between 1965-1968.

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were designated as such by way of meeting federal governance criteria – with the main criteria being that the CAA's have a tripartite board comprised of low income residents, the public and private sectors.

As Sam mentioned Hawaii has four designated CAAs. Federal designation means you receive federal funds every year no matter what unless the program is zeroed out on the national level in the House Labor-HHS-Education bill. Therefore in order to continue to receiving those funds, under 676 (a)(3) of the CSBG Act, every three years you hold a legislative hearing and submit a State Plan after the hearing and public commentary.

However, none of these hearings should be viewed merely as a formality to receive the funding, Rather, these hearings are a chance for you and the public at large to hear some of the vital community services and programs our Community Action agencies have provided now and over the last 40 plus years.

It was Donald Rumsfeld, back in 1970, as the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, who said the mission of the Community Action Agencies is to enable low income individuals and families of all ages to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivations to help them become SELF SUFFICIENT.

Thus, I will give some very brief examples of what the CAAs do for our low income communities since I prefer that they tell you their own stories of success, the programs they run and clients they serve.

Let's start with the Honolulu Community Action Agency on Oahu. One of the most needed and helpful programs the community at large needs and HCAP runs is the Head Start Program. They have the largest Head Start program in the State with 85 centers island wide serving over 1,650 children a year between the ages of 3 and 5. These services include mental health, dental, medical, immunization, socialization and educational services.

HCAP's most recent program was the opening of the Kumu Honua Transitional Shelter last fall in Kalaeloa. The shelter has 70 units that cater to the homeless population where either couples or individuals may stay in for up to 2 years. Besides shelter, HCAP also provides to this population a variety of social services with the continuum of care to help them reach self-sufficiency.

Two other exemplary programs HCAP runs are for seniors and youth.

The Youth Services Employment Program provides job training and placement for out-of-school and in-school youth, 14 to 21 years of age and is an optimum follow-up to our Youth Services Education Program. It also offers competency-based readiness skills prior to employment.

The Older American Community Services Employment Program is the Title V of the Older Americans Act that provides meaningful part-time subsidized "hands-on" training to low-income seniors aged 55 and older that ultimately assists them in finding regular jobs in the community. Other program benefits include social security credit, supplemental income while gaining new employment skills, more social interaction and up to \$50.00 in order to obtain a free physical exam.

Hawaii Economic Opportunity Council:

On the Big Island, transportation continues to be identified as the biggest barrier for clients. Hawaii County's public transit has been unable to design routes that are meeting the needs of various communities in distant rural areas. The increase in energy costs and fuel have also increased the inquiries for transportation services and energy assistance. Therefore, HCEOC has a wonderful and much needed transportation program that helps promote an independent, healthy, enriched lifestyle for the low-income elderly, disabled, and pre-school children. The daily bus schedule provides point-to-point service from off highway communities to shopping areas, banks, post offices, medical facilities, nutrition sites, and rehabilitation facilities. HCEOC works with a variety of agencies and community partners whose clients utilize this program every day.

Maui Economic Opportunity

First of all I should mention that MEO is an Award of Excellence Agency and in 2008, named one of the Best Places To Work. Out of 1100 CAAs, only about 7 CAA have received this award. This is an award of the highest caliber based on service and productivity. They received this award in 2003. So once again, I would like to congratulate them for this achievement.

One of their most innovative programs has been the BEST program. This stands for “Being Empowered Safe Together”. This is a prisoner re-entry program that seeks to prevent recidivism by providing client a variety services that target substance abuse, physical abuse, unemployment, lack of skills and services and training. The BEST program aims to work on a holistic level by helping to restore formerly incarcerated clients as productive members of their families and the community at large. Recently MEO added two more components to this program: 1) the MEO-BEST House in Wailuku, which will be a transitional home for clients based on the Delancey Street Model in San Francisco. MEO plans to complete construction for this project next March; 2) MEO-BEST Ke Kahua Agricultural project. This program has BEST clients doing community work and learning about the agricultural and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian community members. One of the ultimate goals of this program is to grow Native Hawaiian and other foods on this 11 acre plot and prepare these foods in the MEO kitchens. Preparation of these foods will go to feed pre-school as well as others in the community at large.

Kauai Economic Opportunity

In July, I had the privilege of visiting KEO when I did a monitoring visit. I was especially impressed by their Care A Van, Emergency Homeless Shelter (Mana Olana) and Transitional Housing program. These programs are especially effective as they work in unison together to help clients ultimately achieve long-term self-sufficiency. The Care A Van provides roaming outreach services which are comprised of health assistance, basic needs and emergency food to Kauai’s homeless living on the beaches, parks and many other locations.

The Emergency Homeless Shelter is a 19 bed emergency shelter for homeless individuals and families who can stay there a maximum of 42 nights per year. This program also provides case management services and helps residents link to and utilize other lifelong resources in the community to help stabilize their lives. This shelter provides emergency services for 540 individuals annually. Last but not least, The Transitional Housing Program. This program provides long term housing (a maximum of 2 years) to homeless individuals or families who lack a fixed and regular place to live. This program also provides case management services which help individuals and families develop goals and objectives to obtain self-sufficiency and housing. Some of these goals are developing monthly household budgets and acquiring money management skills, taking life-skills classes or health, family and education related classes. Clients are also required to participate in monthly case management meetings which are the crux of this program as well as getting them to self-sufficiency. Clients also benefit from a variety of referral services provided by KEO's community partners.

The mission of the CAA was best put by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, when he said the CSBG program “does not merely expand on old programs or improve on what is already being done. It charts a new course. It strikes at the causes, not just the consequences of poverty.”

I heard once that the definition of poverty need not be long, drawn out and overly technical. What poverty is - is clear and simple - poverty is a lack of opportunity. Therefore, I would like to applaud our CAAs in providing each and every one of their clients an opportunity to better themselves, improve their self-esteem and give them a chance in life to do the best they can for themselves and their families.

Testimony of Sandy Baz
Joint Legislative Hearing of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
House of Representatives Committee on Finance
Re: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program State Application and Plan
Conference Room 309, State Capitol
1:30PM Tuesday, August 18, 2009

Aloha Chairs Kim and Oshiro:

My name is Sandy Baz and I am the chief executive officer for Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO), the Community Action Agency for Maui County. I am also representing the 24 members of our tri-partite board and the over 20,000 clients that MEO serves on an annual basis. And I am testifying **in support of** the CSBG application and proposed plan.

The mission of MEO is to help the low-income elderly, children and youth, persons with disabilities, immigrants, other disadvantaged persons, and the general public, to help themselves, so that they may become self-sufficient and enrich their lives.

MEO has never been afraid of taking a risk, taking on a community issue no one else wants to touch, and providing opportunities for community members to participate in the process of creating change. MEO's innovative programs, creative staff, dedicated volunteers, and visionary Board of Directors makes it happen.

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. is at the forefront of issues that face disadvantaged people. These issues include affordable housing, homelessness, family strengthening, early childhood education, prisoner reentry, creating business support to those who may be un-bankable, and providing transportation such as life sustaining services for persons living with diabetes.

What would a day without MEO look like? An elderly person might need to be institutionalized, workers may not get to work, a child might be forced to into someone's home without schooling because a parent could not afford child care, a teenager might end up drinking and smoking instead of contributing positively to a community service project; a person released from prison might not know who to turn to for help as they walk out the prison door; a person wanting a job might get another door slammed in their face; someone's house might go dark because they were unable to pay their electricity; another person with a great idea would walk away disappointed, turned down by another banker because of a poor credit history; a Spanish speaking, or Filipino speaking, or Marshall islands immigrant would struggle to understand the complexities of a driver's license exam. These are all very real examples of what a day without MEO would be for the people of Maui County.

Government is the main source of funding: federal, state, and county. We partner with government to provide needed services in the community. This works for government and us because we respond quickly, efficiently, and effectively. With funding support, MEO is able to carry out its mission, limited only by the creativity of staff and its Board of Directors.

45 years ago President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, federal legislation that declared the War on Poverty. Over the years and through many political hurdles the federal Office of Economic Opportunity, now called the Office of Community Services under the US Department of Health and Human Services has been providing funding for agencies such as MEO to involve the poor in assessing the community needs, identifying creative solutions to relieve the affects of poverty in communities throughout the country. The CSBG funds are discretionary funds, some of the only flexible funds available from the government. Unlike other

government funds, which are earmarked for very specific program outcomes, these funds allow us to do innovative pilot projects and provide necessary administrative support to so many programs that are valuable to the community but lack the funding. CSBG funds are the glue that hold MEO together, they are the funds to which all other programs are attached. With the federal funding we expect to receive this year, we will leverage another \$23 Million in additional funding. As a result, we operate over 88 programs with funding from over 70 different sources.

There are over 1000 anti-poverty CSBG agencies like MEO throughout the country. We are networked through a national organization named the Community Action Partnership. In 2003 this national partnership defined a process called the “Award for Excellence in Community Action”, based on the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige principles for organizational excellence. This was to highlight those agencies that are doing excellent work. After an intense 3 month self study process, and a thorough site visit, we were awarded this coveted honor to be one of only eight in the nation who can call themselves “Agencies of Excellence in Community Action”.

We understand the need to be fiscally responsible with hard-earned taxpayer dollars, to run MEO as a business but to still maintain our human service mission. We believe in the Community Action Promise which reads: Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

We work great with our peers in the three other community action agencies throughout Hawaii and the State Office of Community Services and we ask you to support the State’s CSBG application and proposed plan.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify today.

Testimony

August 18, 2009

To: House Finance Committee
Senate Ways and Means Committee

By: Lester Seto
Community Services Director
Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council

Re: Community Services Block Grant Request from the Office of Community Services under the Department of Labor

Dear honorable members of the House Finance and Senate Ways and Means Committees, my name is Lester Seto, and I am the Community Services Director for the 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council which people refer to as HCEOC.

I am testifying in support of the Community Services Block Grant state plan submitted by the Office of Community Services under the Hawaii State Department of Labor. Our non-profit organization HCEOC receives needed funds through this Community Services Block Grant for both capacity building and direct services.

Here are just a few case studies of low income residents who have benefited because of this grant.

I will use first names and I have the permission of these individuals to share their testimonies.

Curtis was released from prison a few years ago. He applied for many jobs but no one would hire him. He heard about one of our agency's job training programs called the Renewable Energy Program to prepare unemployed persons for green industry careers. Curtis is doing very well in the program and has advanced to being one of the fore men in the project. He says to many people in the public, "HCEOC gave me a chance when no one else did." It really, however, is not only HCEOC who gave Curtis an opportunity to turn his life around for the better. It was also because of the Community Services Block Grant which gave HCEOC the capacity to apply for and then to oversee programs such as the Renewable Energy Job Training Grant.

There is also Shirley whose children were young and who had never worked outside the home before. She applied for a job training program in our agency's bakery called the Rainbow Falls Connection. She worked there faithfully for a number of years and then recently was able to get a permanent job at Wal Mart where she is now a supervisor. She, too, tells people in the community how grateful she is to HCEOC for giving her job experience at the Rainbow Falls

Connection. The Rainbow Falls Connection is one of the many programs which the Community Services Block Grant supports.

Artemio is a senior citizen who lives in the remote southern most town in our state and nation, the village of Naalehu. Naalehu is 70 miles away from the nearest dialysis center to which a senior citizen named Artemio needs access three days a week. Thanks to the capacity building funds from the Community Services Block Grant, HCEOC is able to administer transportation programs for the elderly, the ill, the low come, the handicapped and others with needs. Artemio continually says to his HCEOC vehicle drivers how thankful he is of their service.

Not only does the Community Services Block Grant allow HCEOC to help adults and senior citizens, but children and youth also benefit. Tatiana was a senior at Hilo High School this past school year. In January 2009, she was failing in three classes. She needed to pass all three classes plus do after school make up work in order to graduate in June. The counseling staff referred Tatiana to our agency's Drop Out Prevention Program Community Facilitator assigned to Hilo High School. The Drop Out Prevention staff's person is Fred Collins. Fred contacted Tatiana every school day from January through May, and through the collaboration of school staff and Fred, Tatiana walked with her class and received her bona fide diploma in June. Because of the capacity building funds from the Community Services Block Grant, HCEOC is able to offer a drop out prevention program as well as other children and youth services to help students do well in school and become self-sufficient adults.

There are hundreds and even close to ten thousand people on our Big Island who would be more than willing to share their appreciation for the services received through the Community Services Block Grant to HCEOC. The four individuals described in this testimony are just examples of the people who have been helped.

On behalf of the low income and other persons in need on the Island of Hawaii, I urge you to please give the same kind of careful consideration to our Hawaii State Community Services Block Grant that you have given in past years. Thank you very much.

Testimony

Of

MaBel Ferreiro-Fujiuchi
Chief Executive Officer
Kauai Economic Opportunity, Incorporated
August 18, 2009

Senate Committee on Ways & Means
House of Representatives Committee on Finance
State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Room 325
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senate Committee on Ways and Means and House of Representatives Committee on Finance:

Chairpersons Donna Mercado Kim and Marcus Oshiro and Members of the Committees:

My name is MaBel Ferreiro-Fujiuchi and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Kauai Economic Opportunity, Incorporated, a private non-profit 501C3 Community Action Agency serving Kauai's residents for the past 42 years.

I wish to testify in support of the proposed Community Services Block Grant Plan for the State of Hawaii, Federal Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 as submitted by the Office of Community Services, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Plan provides for ameliorating and attempting to diminish the causes of poverty throughout the State by providing a broad range of services and activities.

The Office of Community Services (OCS) has been designated as the State Lead Agency responsible for administering the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) in the State of Hawaii. For the sake of this plan the Office of Community Services (OCS) serves as the State Economic Opportunity Office and the plan indicates that the Office of Community Services will execute agreements for the use of CSBG funds, support coordination and communication among those eligible entities and monitor the activities.

During the past Fiscal Years, CSBG funds were distributed to eligible entities defined as Community Action Agencies, which are non-profit agencies with a unique

Board of Directors structure representing public officials, private representatives and democratically elected representatives of the poverty population.

The Community Action Agencies statewide are multi-faceted with abundant administrative experience in human development programs with special emphasis responding to the needs of the poor. Community Action Agencies have provided direct and catalytic activities conducive to improved living and therefore diminishing stagnation of the poor.

In specific, Kauai's poverty population is approximately 10% of its total population. The CSBG funds proposed to be allocated to KEO is approximately \$270,000.00. KEO uses these funds to fund an allocated portion of its administrative arm. That nucleus of the agency has in 2009 generated more than \$7,000,000.00 from various funding sources to provide approximately 6,000 individuals services through more than 25 programs. The exponential effect is extreme, at best, and the Return on Investment is a direct benefit to those in need. I offer a challenge to other organizations to match the 1:26 Return on Investment Ratio. You, the Legislature have been an integral part in achieving these accomplishments through your Grants In Aid, Operating and Capital funds over the years.

Not blinded by comfort and complacency, KEO and the other Community Action Agencies aggressively advocate for and execute resolutions to ease the pain of poverty without compromising the dignity of those affected. With the Office of Community Services, the Community Action Agencies strategically plan for the expected and the unexpected surrounding poverty. As in the past, continuing into the present and as the plan indicates for the future: the Office of Community Services has been very supportive of the Community Action Agencies in the enhancement of service delivery for the economically disadvantaged persons. The plan provides a strong commitment towards continued support and therefore, Kauai Economic Opportunity, Incorporated strongly endorses the proposed plan submitted by the Office of Community Services.

I am prepared to respond to your questions and comments to validate my statements vis a vis the Community Services Block Grant Plan before you. However, should I not be able to provide the information you request, I will attempt to obtain pertinent information and respond back to you within 48 hours.

I thank you for past support to the Plan, your continuing generous tangible support of KEO's projects, hope to obtain your support for the Community Services Block Grant Plan before you, I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today and wish you well.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT N.E. PIPER, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
HONOLULU COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC. ("HCAP")
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
AND THE
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
JOINT INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009
1:30 P.M.
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 325

Chairpersons Mercado Kim and Oshiro and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Finance Committee:

Aloha mai kakou. My name is Robert N.E. Piper, and I thank you for the opportunity and honor to submit this written testimony in strong support of the State of Hawaii's Office of Community Services' Community Services Block Grant ("CSBG") State Application and Plan for the Federal Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

I am the Executive Director of the Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. (or "HCAP" as we are more commonly known). I have been the HCAP Executive Director since July 6, 2009, and I must state that I am both proud and privileged to be serving HCAP and our community at large in this capacity.

HCAP has been proudly serving the communities of Oahu since 1965. We are resolute in achieving our mission of providing opportunities and inspiration to enable low-income individuals or families to achieve self-reliance. We, at HCAP, believe that everyone should have the opportunity to contribute - to the best of their capabilities - and share in our society's social and economic well-being and prosperity.

HCAP carries out its mission through multi-varied community programs throughout Oahu. Annually, HCAP serves over 11,000 low-income clients with as many as 23 programs in areas of job preparation; placement and follow-up; education and child care services; family assistance and development; community involvement; advocacy; coordination and resource mobilization. HCAP provides these services through well over 100 program delivery sites, at an annual budget

of approximately \$20 million, and a staff of over 400 dedicated and passionate employees.

While it is no secret that our nation, state, and island communities are dealing with unprecedented financial challenges, I will not belabor the importance of strong community action in bringing about relief, hope, and inspiration to those in need throughout our community. We daily see the suffering around us caused by the very high cost of living in our islands combined with a very low wage base. Often as a result of this two-sided sword, previously middle-class families fall into the low income category, and many formerly low income families become destitute. Unfortunately, homelessness has become a way of life for many in our community. Alcohol and drug abuse, other “at-risk” behavior, mental disorders, lack of adequate education and/or job skills, domestic violence, cultural and language barriers resulting from recent immigration are all causes of poverty in our community, and all contribute to dysfunction in some way, shape or form in our families and neighborhoods.

HCAP strives to provide quality and relevant programs and services to those who need them – where they need them. We are present in and relevant to their lives, and, I, humbly, submit that they look to HCAP to help them find the means, the mechanisms, and the will to become self-sufficient. We try to provide both hope and safe haven.

With the very strong bonding that occurs in situations such as those listed above, and the trust that results, our clients are able to work with staff to set goals and implement a plan to realize their dreams. Happily, many exceed beyond their wildest imaginations. We believe that their success is ours, and yours too as well. I note that there is and will always be much more that we should work to accomplish. And, we will.

Our CSBG funding of approximately \$2.0 million annually provides for programs and services to our communities in need, and the administrative support of doing so. The funding also complements and/or supplements other diverse and important government funded programs that are often not fully funded to contribute sufficiently to programmatic overhead expenses. These programs include our emergency and stabilization services, employment and job training

programs, early-childhood education, and other community building initiatives. CSBG funding also helps to expand the outreach and accessibility of these other services to a wider target population and a broader demographic (i.e., children, youth, seniors, immigrants, low-income, homeless, families, etc.). Specifically, some of these additional programs, which are supported by CSBG funding, include:

- Senior Community Services Employment Program (“SCSEP”);
- Youth Services Program;
- Kumuhonua Transitional Homeless Shelter Program;
- Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (“LIHEAP”);
- Weatherization Assistance Program (“WAP”);
- Mentoring Children of Prisoners (“MCP”) Program; and the
- HCAP Head Start Program.

I note that HCAP’s administrative costs are less than 6% when all of HCAP’s programs are combined. This translates into the fact that over 94% of the funding that we receive goes to direct services.

Our nation, state and island communities are dealing with unprecedented challenges. Notwithstanding these challenges, HCAP remains committed to its mission, and we will stand firm in partnership with you, our lawmakers, in our support of those in need in our community. I am sure that you will agree with me when I say that abandonment of our communities’ needy during these tough times will never be an option.

The CSBG funding that we receive is critical to us as it extends both our capacity to deliver services and programming to our communities, and our outreach throughout the communities that we serve. Without this core and important funding, our menu of programming would be slim indeed and our mission would be unachievable.

I have attached a Fact Sheet to my testimony. It provides data and statistics for programs, services, and administrative expenses, as well as a listing of our various partnerships for your review and analysis.

I am also pleased now to turn over HCAP's testimony to some of our program managers, who are better able to describe the nature and scope of our programs. They will ask some of the people who have benefitted from our programs to tell you in their own words how their lives have been positively affected by programs and services that are funded by CSBG monies. I am confident that you will be impressed and cheered by what you hear.

In closing, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to share with you a very little about HCAP and our mission to serve our community. I would also like to take this time to commend and thank the Office of Community Services for its leadership and dedication to eliminating poverty in our State. I thank Sam Aiona and his staff for their partnership and active participation with HCAP and our sister community action agencies in finding ways to improve and expand our programs, and to make them more meaningful and relevant to our clients. It is my fervent belief that we will achieve an end to poverty by working collaboratively within our community with our clients, our partner agencies and organizations, and our Federal, State and local governmental partners such as yourselves. Collectively, I believe that we will all rise in the same tide, and that our communities will be far better for it in the years to come. Once again, mahalo for your time.

HONOLULU COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, Inc. ("HCAP")
CSBG PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES
FACT SHEET – October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008

CSBG Core Programs and Services:

Employed	349 individuals
Trained	136 individuals
Employment Support	533 individuals
Energy Assistance	6,633 households
Food Assistance	17,741 households
Temporary Shelter	173 households
Early Childhood Education	3,619 individuals
Adult Basic Education/GED completion	205 individuals
Post-secondary education completion	8 individuals
Preservation/Improvement of affordable housing	29 housing units
Emergency & Stabilization Services (e.g. transportation, housing, etc.)	533 individuals

Additional Programs run by CSBG funded staff

- Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP"): 4,237 households received credits on their energy bills
- Weatherization Assistance Program ("WAP"): 350 CFL light bulbs, 6 solar water heaters and 6 refrigerators
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program ("TEFAP"): 6,994 households received surplus food

HCAP Administration Costs:

1. Total Admin for HCAP (agency-wide) – Approximately 6%
2. % uncovered by other programs due to them only funding direct costs – Average range 10 – 15% (depending on individual program)
3. % of total agency admin funded by CSBG is 47%.
 - a. CSBG helps fund HCAP's core capacity and infrastructure as a Community Action Agency, which assists with carrying out these activities, *although*, most of these programs (while necessary in meeting the community's needs) do not pay for indirect (admin) costs of approximately 10% to 15%.
4. Agency wide our cost to provide services per client is under \$2,000.

Partners:

- Aha Kuka Na Kupuna O Maku O Wai'anae
- Aiea Elementary School
- Aiea Neighborhood Board
- All about Kids

- Ark of Safety Ministry
- Big Brothers & Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club
- Bridge to Hope
- C&C Environmental Division
- C&C Palolo Valley District Park
- Campbell Estates
- City and County of Honolulu- Adopt a Highway
- Department of Education
- Drug Court
- Engineering & Contracting
- Ewa Lighting Service
- Financial Services
- Goodwill Industries, First to Work
- Halawa High Rise
- Halawa Valley Estates
- Hale Naau Pono
- Hawaii Business Educators Association (HBEA)
- Hawaii Food Bank
- Hawaii Housing and Community Development
- Hawaii Job Corps
- Hawaiian Electric Company
- Helping Hands
- Helping Hands Hawaii
- HFD
- Ho'omau Keola Treatment Center
- Honolulu Gas Company
- House of Angels
- HPD
- HPD Waianae
- Jarrett Middle School
- Kalakaua Tenants Association
- Kapahulu Senior Center
- Leeward Community College
- Legal Aid Society
- Life After Prison (LAP)
- Lokahi Adopt-a-Family
- Malama Makua
- Maryknoll School
- Matt Levi
- Military – Camp Smith
 - Commander and Chief US Pacific Fleet
 - Pearl Harbor Chapel
 - Naval Communications Center

- Hickam Family Service Center
- Armed Services YMCA
- Pearl Harbor Family Service Center
- Moanalua/Aiea Community School for Adults
- Moiliili Community Center
- Mutual Assistance Associations Center
- Nanakuli Housing Service
- Ohana Ola O Kahumana – Adult classes
- Once a Month Church – Haleiwa
- OWL
- Palolo Chinese Home
- Palolo Community Council
- Palolo Lions Club
- Palolo Neighborhood Board
- Palolo Pipeline
- Palolo Pride Committee
- Palolo Valley Drive-Inn
- Palolo Valley Homes Ohana Residents Association
- Palolo Valley Homes Tenants Association
- Papakolea Community Association
- Papakolea Community Development Corporation
- Parent and Children Together
- Pumehana Residents Association
- Punchbowl Homes Residents Association
- Puu Wai Momi Volunteers for Youth
- Queen Lili’uokalani Children Center
- Red Cross
- Representative Lynn Finnegan
- Representative Marilyn Lee
- Salvation Army
- Salvation Army
- Salvation Army- Toys for Tots
- Self Help Housing
- Solidarity, Coalition for the Poor
- St Johns Church
- St. James/St. Patrick’s Food Bank
- State Judiciary Community Services Sentencing
- Sunset on the Beach
- Wahiawa Business Association
- Wahiawa Lions Club
- Wahiawa Neighborhood Board
- Waianae Coast Coalition
- Waianae Community Health Center
- Waianae Community Outreach

- Waikiki Community Center
- Waipahu Community Association
- Welfare Employment Rights Coalition
- Whitmore Seniors



A Non-Profit Human Service Agency

Main Office Location

33 South King Street, Suite 300 * Honolulu, HI 96813-4323
Telephone (808) 521-4531 * Fax (808) 521-4538

Honolulu Community Action Program

**2008 - 2009
Board Officers**

Rev. Sadrian Chee
Chair
Kevin Souza, Esq.
Vice Chair
Isaac W. Choy
Treasurer

**2008 - 2009
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August 12, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

Aloha,

My name is Mildred and I currently reside at the Kumuhonua Transitional Shelter in Kalaeloa. I have been plagued with homelessness for the past seven years and throughout the years of living on the beach I recall the many times I went to Honolulu Community Action Program for an array of services that they provide to the residents of the Leeward Coast.

There are not very many programs or transitional shelters that allow for singles or couples with no dependants, and I am truly grateful to have been given the opportunity to utilize such services through HCAP. This has been a stepping stone for me and many others who suffer from the same problems as I do.

With no affordable housing and being unable to meet certain criteria, for Hawaii Public Housing Authority the housing issue is one of a long awaited and overdue problem. By having services like the Honolulu Community Action Program they help to alleviate the homeless issues that our City has been trying to deal with for years. I can only hope that services such as these would not be hit by the budget cuts that many have felt, only to see our State back at square one with the Homeless Problem.

Remember our State Motto "Ua mau kea o ka aina I ka pono". The life and the land is perpetuated in righteousness".

Mahalo,

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August 12, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

The Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) is a federally funded program under the Title V of the Older Americans Act. Project funds are granted to the State Department of Labor Workforce Development Division and are then sub-granted to the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) for community service delivery and program administration. This program is island wide and it services low-income seniors who are 55 years of age and older with paid "hands-on" training through Community Service Assignments and job search assistance. Many of our participants come to us with multiple barriers such as:

- Immigrants (Limited English proficiency)
- Homelessness
- Psychological
- Emotional
- Financial
- Lack of education
- Cultural Differences
- Isolation

I have been working for the SCSEP program for the past fourteen (14) years). One year as the employment counselor/job developer and thirteen years as program coordinator. Over the years of service to this program, I have seen the overall impact that SCSEP has upon many of its participants. Benefits of the SCSEP program reach far beyond financial; it also includes physical, psychological, and emotional.

HCAP SCSEP currently has sixty (60) non-profit/governmental partners throughout Oahu who provide "hands-on" training and oversight to our participants. SCSEP currently pays its participants the state minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour to perform assigned tasks at the designated community service assignment (CSA). What appears to be "little wages" to some is actually life changing to many of our participants who use the monies to help supplement their low-income. As in the words of our participants who are financially struggling...."every little counts".

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August 12, 2009

Page 2 of 2

Notwithstanding the financial impact that SCSEP has on its participants, I have seen the psychological and emotional differences that SCSEP has on isolation. As some people age, their social network often reduces and isolation becomes a very big issue. They age quicker and emotional and physical problems begin to set in. As a participant who is assigned to a community service assignment, it gives the individual a sense of purpose and the great feeling of being a contributing citizen. Increasing one's social network can be a very powerful tool in the fight against aging and/or having the need to be institutionalized.

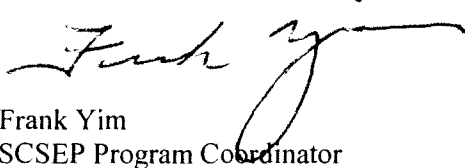
The SCSEP program has a lot more benefits that directly help the participants. Being low-income, some of our participants have not had a physical exam for many years and are unaware of physical concerns that may need medical attention. The program offers free annual physical exams (up to \$50.00 per/physical). We provide a list of participating doctors. The results of the physical are not used as an eligibility criterion. We use the results to make an appropriate match between the client and the host agency training site.

SCSEP is good for the economy. All SCSEP participant wages are taxed. From our immigrant viewpoint, they are very happy to be taxed so that it builds social security credits that allow them to collect SSA after 40 reportable quarters of earned wages. Overall, all SCSEP participants contribute to the tax base for earned wages; this is a win-win situation.

From the administrative standpoint, SCSEP is very client focused. The federal law mandates that a minimum of 75% or more of the program funds are to be allocated to the Enrollee Wages and Fringe category (EW&F). 9.6% or less allocated to Administration and the remaining percentages to Other Program Cost. With such little allowable admin, SCSEP often relies on the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to help carry some of the administrative overages in the fiscal functions. Programmatically, HCAP SCSEP for the past fourteen (14) years has successfully attained all of its performance measures and its fiscal oversight and outcomes are second to none. Last year, the State of Hawaii SCSEP was on the top ten of the national ranking. This past year's expenditures ended at 99.31% total spent. Of this number, 79% was spent on Enrollee Wages & Fringe, 9% Admin, and 11% Other Program Cost.

In closing, from the human services angle, SCSEP, with the help of CSBG, has been a very community service focused program that brings invaluable points to all corners of the community – participants, partnering agencies, employers, and the government tax base. At the SCSEP Request for Proposal session, I have witnessed other organizations that were reluctant to apply for SCSEP due to the complexities, stringent federal guidelines, and the low allowable administrative cost. As mentioned before, SCSEP defines community action. With the benefits that SCSEP provides to the elderly community, despite the low allowable admin cost, it is very well worth doing. I believe in the SCSEP and will continue to provide services to the elderly community.

Sincerely,



Frank Yim
SCSEP Program Coordinator



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August 12, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

My name is Patti Beatty and I am writing in support of the Senior Community Services Program (SCSEP). I was born and raised in Pennsylvania and came to Hawaii in August 2008. With my 35 years background as a dental assistant, dental receptionist, and office manager, I decided to pursue job openings in the dental field. To my surprise I was made to feel like I was too old to be considered for any positions available. All my experience and excellent references didn't seem to count. I began to feel frustrated, old, and useless. One day, when I was down at Waikiki Community Center, I ran into the social worker who had mentioned SCSEP to me. At this point, I decided "what did I have to lose by filling out an application". I went to their office, filled out an application, and was called in for an interview. To my surprise, I found a friendly office and a group of people that saw potential in me. I was enrolled and began working in SCSEP in March of 2009, and I couldn't be happier. The people there are all so kind and always ready to help. It is a real family type atmosphere, and they make older people feel useful and needed.

Sincerely,

Patti Beatty



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Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

As an Employment Counselor for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) since October of 2008, I have witnessed many ways the program has helped the seniors in the community. In our program we service seniors island-wide who are 55 years of age and older who have the desire to return to the workforce. Many of our clients have challenges and barriers that through the help of SCSEP, were able to find and / or maintain employment.

It is my understanding that the majority of SCSEP funds are put forth to service the program participant by providing paid community service training at various training sites. Being that only a small portion (9.6% or less) is allowed for administrative costs, SCSEP relies on the assistance from the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) to help cover what the program is unable to pay for.

SCSEP helps our partnering agencies by placing participant(s) at their training site. The site gets free additional help and the participant receives training.

Aside from paid community service assignments, we provide personal counseling, pre-employment training workshops, employee safety workshops, job-search assistance, and follow-up services. We also provide free physical exams (not to exceed \$50 per physical) and client advocacy in obtaining supportive services (bus passes, food stamps, shelter, social security, utility assistance, etc.).

Through all the program services that SCSEP provides, the most profound impact that I have seen is the sense of belonging or being a part of a group. Being accepted to a community service assignment and having to report to that assignment really boosts my participants' self-esteem and morale. At times I have even felt that being a part of a meaningful group was more important than the training wages that they receive.

Overall, SCSEP wages are of a big help for anyone who is low-income and financially besieged. However, through my personal involvement with the clients, I have seen that SCSEP fulfills that basic human need to be needed and has given many a purpose in life and a reason to thrive.

Sincerely,

Barbara Koike
SCSEP Employment Counselor

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August 12, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

Good afternoon, my name is Sue Quinn. I am the Senior Community Service Manager for the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) stationed at Central O'ahu District Center. One of my duties is to coordinate HCAP's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). HCAP has been the provider agency on the Island of O'ahu for over 25 years.

When the program first started everyone on public assistance received a check, per their household size, even if they did not pay utility costs. The program now has evolved into helping eligible individuals and families to offset home energy costs.

LIHEAP consists of two programs Energy Crisis Intervention (ECI) and Energy Credit (EC). The ECI program restores or prevents termination of electric or gas power in the current residence. ECI does not exceed \$200.00 and is paid directly to the utility company. The EC program helps eligible households offset the rising cost of energy. The amounts received are determined by points assigned to the household in five categories; income level, household size, island, number of children under 5 years old, and disabled individuals/ adults over 60 years old. Each of these categories is assigned points and each point is given a dollar value.

In order to apply for either program, the household must have a current original electric or gas bill and proof that they currently reside at the bill address. To qualify for these programs, the household must submit the following: declare entire household composition, income level under 150% of the federal poverty guideline, liquid assets may not exceed \$5,000 and everyone over 18 years old must sign the application.

HCAP, as the provider agency, must ensure that households meet the conditions of the program. Applications are taken the first work day of June and end the last work day of June. It is also HCAP's responsibility to identify and serve the elderly and disabled. Each district office offers additional sites; senior housing complexes, community centers, public housing communities, libraries and individual home visits.

We are still accumulating information for this 2009 program year. We will have approximately 4,200 applications.

August 12, 2009

Page 2 of 2

In 2008, we processed 4,237 applications. 121 were for ECI payments. We were able to serve 2,095 applicants over 60 years of age, 1,943 disabled and do 90 home visits. EC payments to utility companies were between \$241 and \$421.75 depending on the household composition.

During this period staff promotes other HCAP programs, such as; Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Head Start, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), Youth Services, Competency Based High School Diploma Program (CBHSDP), Employment Readiness Training Programs (JRT), case management, Temporary Emergency Food Program (TEFAP) and emergency assistance.

CSBG funding is an essential aspect for HCAP to be able to provide LIHEAP services. Because LIHEAP runs only one month during the year, it is vital to have CSBG experienced senior staff that understands the program well enough to train temporary LIHEAP hires. The Office of Community Services staff that oversees CSBG has been extremely supportive throughout the years. They recognize the importance of LIHEAP and are sensitive to the needs within the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the LIHEAP and CSBG programs.

Sue Quinn
Senior Community Services Manager
Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.
Central O'ahu District Center
99-102 Kalaloa Street
Aiea, Hawaii 96701-3801
Tel: (808) 488-6834
Fax: (808) 488-7862
www.hcapweb.org



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August 12, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

My name is Maria Chomyszak and I am the Program Manager of the Kumuhonua Transitional Shelter Program in Kalaeloa. Kumuhonua is a new program for HCAP but one that has been supported by CSBG.

Our shelter is able to assist homeless adults by providing a safe, stable sheltered environment, case management, classes and workshops on site and referral services to other agencies as per our residents' needs. Many of our residents are employed or enrolled in an educational program. While we are geographically isolated and public transportation is not readily available, our residents continue to thrive and grow.

We hope to be able to offer these vital services in conjunction with our sister programs at HCAP supported by CSBG funding.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the CSBG program.



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August 11, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

My name is Cheryl Castro and I am a Program Manager for Honolulu Community Action Program's Head Start. It is an honor for me to share my Head Start experiences with you and how a little encouragement went a long way for me. As a young mother, I was faced with challenges on a daily basis and I became depleted financially and emotionally without the appropriate support systems in place. The dreams that I often had as a little girl quickly became a cloud in muddy water. My dreams at the time had to take an extreme turn in which I had to forget about education and becoming someone with a passion for something or anything of significance. Instead, I was faced with the harsh reality of raising and feeding my children with no income, an abusive spouse, and no skills under my belt.

Relief came my way when I was given an opportunity to earn some income at a private preschool on the Big Island of Hawaii and the Director encouraged me to seek both a preschool education for my second child with the Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council and pursue a Child Development Associate. Having little income (\$3.89 minimum wage) I was not able to afford the three hundred dollar fee for obtaining a CDA. I learned that HCAP on Oahu was offering Community Education Scholarships; I applied and was accepted. My CDA was paid for and I was employed with HCEOC and on my way to a career in Early Childhood Education. My second child enjoyed her preschool experience with Head Start and excelled through the years to graduate in her junior year of high school among many other achievements in her life.

I transitioned to a new life on Oahu and was given the opportunity for employment with HCAP Head Start. As a new teacher, Head Start provided me with optimism and hope to fuel a sagging spirit. I am grateful for the opportunities I was given to build my resilience, build a better quality of life for me and my children, and pursue higher education. My third and fourth child was also given an opportunity to an early education in the Head Start Program in which they too have excelled in their education endeavors.

I have been with HCAP Head Start for seventeen years and have learned to take risks, to think strategically, to speak to large audiences, to inspire others, to build relationships, and to take on new challenges to move the agency forward. I thank you again for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Honolulu Community Action Program's Head Start.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Castro



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August 13, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

I am writing in support of the Community Service Block Grant Program (CSBG). I am Ace Tufu, the Program Manager for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Community Service Manager for Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) stationed at the Kalihi-Palama District.

I was hired by HCAP as the Community Service Manager for the Kalihi-Palama District in 1997. I am testifying specifically for the WAP program as it is supported by CSBG. Funding received through CSBG is able to support our fifteen member staff implement the WAP program.

I will spare you the history of the WAP Program as I know you are familiar with it. We see first-hand the tremendous impact the WAP program does to the lives of our low-income communities. This is not even counting the benefits of reducing our nation's energy dependency, protecting the environment, while stimulating the economic development within our low income communities. Historically, our fifteen member staff has been weatherizing our low-income families and individuals by providing them with hot water heater timers and jackets and solar hot water heating systems. Within the last three years, the WAP Program provided CFL light bulbs, refrigerators and solar hot water heating systems. Last year we installed six solar water heating systems and 50 CFL kits. These measures equate to savings to our low-income community of over 70% of energy costs. These measures provided by the WAP Program improved quality of life, lessened the mental anguish resulting from lack of adequate finances, allowed flexibility in the family budget and clearly helped them on their way to self-sufficiency. Additionally, the appreciative attitude, satisfaction and happiness displayed by each parent and particularly the children are just overwhelming.

It is absolutely clear that the WAP Program is perhaps the most beneficial program when considering the impact to the low-income community and its long term benefits to our state, the environment and our nation...and CSBG funding plays a major role towards its implementation.

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August 13, 2009

Re: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Testimony of Ace Tufu, Community Service Manager

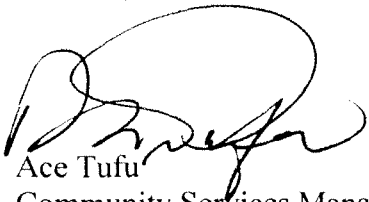
Page 2 of 2

The WAP Program is committed to do much more for our low-income communities in the future. For example: the program is committed to weatherize 100 homes by replacing old incandescent light bulbs with CFL light bulbs for 50 homes while retro-fitting 50 more homes with CFL light bulbs and fixtures; installing solar water heating system on 139 homes, and 25 homes will receive a refrigerator. The WAP program will ensure each home is weatherized to the maximum extent possible to make the dwelling or unit energy efficient. Additionally, the program is also committed to educate communities to increase awareness on reducing energy consumption while improving the health and comfort of every person living in a weatherized home. These aggressive but essential goals cannot be achieved without direct support of CSBG funds. The WAP program now and in the future will always depend on staff supported by CSBG funds. It is remarkable that 95% of WAP program funds go directly to benefit the low-income family or individual. This is possible due to the support of CSBG program funds. It really is comforting knowing that our senior citizens, the handicapped and low-income families will continue to benefit from the WAP program, because of the support provided by the CSBG program.

In closing, it is absolutely clear that the WAP program benefits our low-income community tremendously. Additionally, the long term benefits to our state are unlimited. It reduces our dependency on imported oil, creates jobs which stimulate the economy, cleans the environment, just to name a few. A huge ALOHA to OCS for their leadership and guidance to making the WAP program a tremendous impact for our clients.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the CSBG program.

Sincerely,



Ace Tufu

Community Services Manager – HCAP Kalihi Palama District Center
Weatherization Assistance Program Manager



A Non-Profit Human Service Agency

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August 11, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

My name is Krystal Ikeda and I am the Program Coordinator for the Youth Services program. I am writing in support of the Community Service Block Grant Program (CSBG). The CSBG program has been instrumental in leveraging our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding to provide education and employment to at-risk youth, ages 16-24.

The primary goal of the Youth Service Program is to provide a comprehensive array of services to the at-risk youth population so that they may become self-sufficient and contributing members in their communities. The program offers Competency Based High School Diploma Program (C-Base) to achieve their high school diploma, as well as, NovaNet for the individualized tutoring component. Work Readiness training and work placement services are available to assist the participant with their career path. We also offer assistance with exploring and applying for post-secondary education.

In these hard economic times, it is essential to find ways to leverage existing funding so that the quality of services offered to our youth will not dissipate. The Youth Service program is grateful that CSBG has been able to provide that leveraging power in order to keep services consistent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the CSBG program.



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August 11, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

My name is Rusty Nutt and I would like to express my sincerest and deepest gratitude for HCAP and their youth program for helping me and others like me achieve their high school diploma and open doors to a bigger and brighter future.

I was in the youth program in 2003 and was able to receive my high school diploma with the class of 2004, thanks to HCAP Youth Services. HCAP helped me think about my future, and showed me the way to achieve my goals and dreams. I am currently in the culinary arts program at Leeward Community College, working at Big City Diner, and one semester away from finishing my Associates degree in Food Science. I will also be the first in my family to achieve a college degree and I thank HCAP for this.

HCAP Youth Services makes a difference and changes lives.



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August 13, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Prog. (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my testimony with regards to the Community Services Block Grant Program. My name is Lynn Cabato and I am the Director of the HCAP Head Start Program. As a Head Start employee, the largest program of Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. ("HCAP"), of 30 plus years, I have worked with families who have benefited tremendously from the multitude of programs the agency provides. The funding that is received through the CSBG program and the State Office of Community Services is critical to this continuity of services that provide support to the children and families we serve.

As a program of HCAP, we have been able to maintain our presence in the City and County of Honolulu, as the largest Head Start program in the State of Hawaii. We have grown over the years from a summer nutrition program of 650 children and families to our current enrollment of 1,650 in over 84 program sites. We are also very proud of our internal competencies in various positions in our workforce of 300+ staff.

The families we serve can be enrolled in our program from 1 to 2 years. We provide comprehensive services in Early Education, Health, and Social Services with an emphasis on parent involvement. Head Start is a child development, parent development, workforce development, and social leadership opportunity. Through our agency, they are linked to resources and services available in the community with the goal of becoming more self confident and more self reliant as they transition to other settings after they leave our program.

Our children and families need and deserve the best start in life to become contributing citizens and leaders in our community. In closing, I would like to reiterate the broad-ranging services that our organization offers, and the instrumental role that the HCAP Head Start Program plays in synergy with our agency's noble mission.

Sincerely,

Lynn Cabato
HCAP Head Start Director



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August 14, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

I am an employment counselor servicing seniors age 55 years and older. I can testify that the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), as part of the Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc., has helped many seniors to deal with their finances, isolation, and their well-being.

Many seniors have found that their social security benefits is not enough to survive during these tough economic times and are forced to return to work in order to have enough monies for food and for their medication. Sometimes seniors have to make the tough choice whether to eat or to buy their vital medicine.

Seniors who have lost their spouse often times feel isolated. Their children have moved away and they do not have the stimulation and company of others to talk to on a daily basis. This isolation for seniors can lead to debilitating diseases such as dementia.

There are seniors who have not "planned" for their retirement as far as activities are concerned. Some seniors find that going to a senior center is simply not for them. Although retired, many of them consider themselves "useful" with lots to give back to the community. To them, working part-time is something that they are comfortable with and it gives them a sense of purpose to their day. They are used to waking up and getting ready to go to work. SCSEP is a tremendous boost for their self-esteem. I have had seniors who told me that if they do not work, they feel as if they will die.

These issues are big concerns for the seniors of today. The Senior Community Service Employment Program is vital for the well-being of our seniors who would otherwise be forgotten and or passed over for someone who is younger, in the job market.

Sincerely,

Pat Dison

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August 13, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

As seniors, some of us Boomers and Caregivers, we are well aware that the most important aid for us is the Social Security and the Medicare Programs that protects us. However, there "is" life after Social Security and Medicare; it is the SCSEP program. Not all of us wish to retire from the workforce.

Aside from what people might think, this is a time for me to really take control of the quality in my life. SCSEP offers everything from financial independence to social equality and from physical support to emotional and mental strength.

Finally, SCSEP consists of an exciting and fantastic blend of human beings filled with stories, jokes, and information during a time in our lives when wisdom is our gift back to society.

Aloha 
Paula Faufata



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August 13, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

RE: Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

The Senior Employment Program has truly helped me "mobilize my resources" to better survive the concerns and problems that I've encountered during this "adventure" of growing old in Honolulu.

Offered by the Honolulu Community Action Program, SCSEP has literally saved my life, and has greatly increased my self esteem.

Not only have I been able to earn extra money and increase my Social Security income, but I'm now able to feel, again, like a contributing member of society – with a "job" that I truly enjoy, and co-workers that have become friends. I had found myself becoming increasingly isolated, and I was in dire need of belonging to a "community" again.

I am no longer feeling so isolated, and I've found a real support system with the friends I've made - my co-workers, as well as the caring staff - the coordinator Mr. Frank Yim, and the employment counselors Ms. Pat Dison, and Ms. Barbara Koike.

I thank my lucky stars that I live in a country that provides programs like SCSEP. I'm truly a happier and healthier old woman because of this wonderful program.

Arian Sanz
626 Coral Street, #1609
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha, my name is DawnSheree Young.

- I am here today to testify in regards to the HCAP-LIHEAP program.
- This program provides credit to pay for electric or gas to help families, individuals and seniors.
- The LIHEAP program has helped my family for the past 5 years.
- I am a single parent on a limited income.
- Without this program, my two little girls and I would not be able to have a little more than usual.
- Receiving the LIHEAP credit benefits my family to save money for other domestic financial obligations such as school, food, holidays, phone bills and other basic needs.
- I recently had the opportunity to work for HCAP LIHEAP program.
- I had the pleasure to give back to a program that has given me so much.
- During this time I met a lot of other HCAP clients receiving the LIHEAP credits.
- They were so appreciative and grateful for this program.
- Please continue to support this program
- Thank you very much for time, support and consideration.

August 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Aloha! My name is Zara Aki, and I'm the President for our Kamehameha Homes Tenant Association. We've been working with HCAP for several years and are very satisfied with their services given to our residents.

The WAP Program has benefited our residents very well, with the installation of the energy saver light bulbs and the wraps for the heater. Residents have informed me that they have seen a decrease in their utility bill and that helps them out a lot. We're ever so grateful to HCAP for this program and their assistance in helping us cut cost with our utilities and to be energy savers.

We thank them for this.

Mahalo,

Zara Aki/President KHTA

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Representative Marcus Oshiro
Chairperson, House Finance Committee

Dear Senator Kim and Representative Oshiro:

My name is Lorrina Nakamura and I am a resident of Kahaluu. I am writing today to testify in regards to the Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

I would like to take a moment to thank Richard Kaai, at the Windward HCAP office for helping my family. A few months ago we were able to qualify for a free refrigerator, which came at a perfect time. We had been keeping our food in coolers. Not only did we receive a brand new refrigerator, but it's an energy star refrigerator, which really makes a difference in the electric bill.

So not only did we receive a brand new refrigerator, but also a cheaper monthly electric bill. Thank you very much HCAP for running programs like these.

Mahalo:

Lorrina Nakamura
Kahaluu Resident

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorrina Nakamura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PATRICIA-ANN (MAKANANI) MARCUSSON

Joint Legislative Hearing for Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)

Don't remember how I first learned about LIHEAP, but since knowing about LIHEAP it has helped me tremendously with my bills. My electric bill used to be \$35.00 and for a while it was steady, until all of a sudden it shot up into the 40's, then 50's and now in the 60's of dollars.

I go now in June with a friendly printout posted on my building bulletin board. They come straight to our building, but because I still work, I pick a day and take the bus to the Palolo Office. They have it together. You put your name next to a number and wait for them to call you. Your job is to bring your bill, ID and if you bring your EBT card no need to bring a bank statement or social security letter.

On my side of LIHEAP I've already applied and now all I have to do is wait for a letter in December to tell me how much they are going to apply to my account that will help me pay my electric bill starting at the beginning of the year.

YEA! This helps me pay other bills I have and for a couple of months I have a breather.

LIHEAP's job starts for the staff even before June and do they have headaches ahead of them. Lots and lots of work with the many number of people they have paper work for. I happened to be on their end for a few months and that's how I know the many headaches and records they have to alphabetize. WOW what a job, it takes days. They've got their job down to a science now and they have completed many interviews, answering questions and looking up applications to verify landlord's information as they not only do the emergency bill, but also credit.

Aside from financial help, the staff also replaces energy saving light bulbs and applications for solar. That means visiting many residences. What a job. They have to obtain permission from the landlord before these devices can be installed.

LIHEAP employees really earn their money. They must complete this years and then they have to start over again.

I am extremely grateful for LIHEAP's existence. Mahalo Nui Loa LIHEAP for helping me with my finances for the many months that you give us. It gives me few breather months. Mahalo!