

HAWAII YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 531-2198 Fax: (808) 534-1199

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: info@hysn.org

Alan Shin, President

Judith F. Clark, Executive Director

Acadix Hawaii Residential Treatment
Center (Formerly Children's
Comprehensive Services)

Adolescent Services Program, Kaiser
Permanent Medical Care System

Aloha House

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii
Assistive Technology Resource Ctr. of HI
Bay Clinic, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Honolulu

Big Island Substance Abuse Council

Blueprint for Change

Bobby Benson Center

Catholic Charities Hawaii

Central Oahu Youth Services Assn.

Child and Family Service

Coalition for a Drug Free Hawaii

College Connections

Community Assistance Center

Domestic Violence Action Center

EPIC, Inc.

Family Support Services of West Hawaii

Foster Family Programs of Hawaii

Friends of the Missing Child Center of HI

Hale Kipa, Inc.

Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.

Hawaii Behavioral Health

Hawaii Foster Parent Association

Hawaii Student Television

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition

Hina Mauka Teen Care

Hui Malama Learning Center

Kahi Mohala Behavioral Health

Kama'aina Kids, Inc.

KEY (Kualoa-Healea Ecumenical Youth)
Project

Kids Behavioral Health

Kids Hurt Too

Kokua Kahiki Valley

Life Foundation

Marimed Foundation

The Maui Farm, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services

Palama Settlement

P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.

Parents and Children Together (PACT)

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
Kona Unit

Salvation Army Family Intervention Svcs.

Salvation Army Family Treatment Svcs.

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Turning Point for Families

Waikiki Health Center

Women Helping Women

YouthVision

YWCA of Kauai

September 4, 2009

To: Senator Suzanné Chun Oakland, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Representative John Mizuno, Chair
And members of the Committee on Human Services

Senator David Ige, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
And members of the Committee on Health

Testimony for Informational Briefing on Office of Human Services

Hawaii Youth Services Network, a statewide coalition of 50 youth-serving organizations, is concerned about the effects of the proposed widespread layoffs in the Office of Youth Services.

The Office of Youth Services coordinates an array of essential services for youth-at-risk to prevent delinquency and reduce the incidence of recidivism. The OYS focuses on programs that address youths' needs from prevention to incarceration and aftercare including

- Youth Service Centers
- Youth Gang Response System
- Non-Residential and In-Community Services
- Community-based Residential Services
- Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)

Without staff to conduct needs assessment and program planning and provide contract management, these programs will end. The result will be that more of our young people will enter the juvenile justice system and some will become adult offenders as well, at much higher expense to the State.

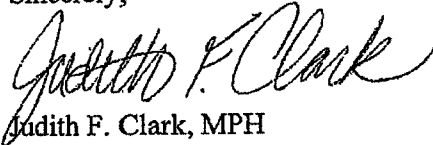
Furthermore, much of the funding for these services is federal not state money. OYS staff members are needed to ensure compliance with federal

HYSN page 2

grant requirements and to prepare funding proposals for continuance of these valuable services for Hawaii's at-risk youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith F. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith F. Clark, MPH
Executive Director

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland

Committee on Human Services

Re: Opposition to the proposed Reduction in Force of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's Homeless Programs Branch

Informational Hearing 9/11/09, 9-11 a.m.

Testimony from:

Pamela Menter
Safe Haven/Mental Health Kokua
41 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Office 808.524.7233
Fax 808.524.0353
safehavendir@hawaii.rr.com

As Safe Haven's Director and Chair of Partners in Care, Oahu's coalition of homeless service providers, I would like to state my strong opposition to the potential Reduction in Force confronting the State Homeless Programs Branch. This would be a very serious threat to the viability of services for Oahu's needy homeless population in this time of severe economic hardship; most of the homeless service providers in our coalition and our state are highly dependent upon the State Homeless Programs Branch for the reasons specified below. The Reduction in Force would affect five people out of a total staff of nine. This represents a 56% cut, or 60% if including the program specialist position recently cut in the 2009 Legislative Session. Over \$16,650,000 in federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds would be put at risk for the purpose of saving the State \$300,534 annually in salary and fringe benefits. I understand and respectfully submit that the latter amount can be paid from the Homeless Programs Branch budget to avoid the Reduction in Force. This would also save the City and State combined, the loss of the federal funds figure, \$16,650,856 to be exact.

Over the past 12 years, the numbers have at least doubled with regard to the Homeless Programs' inventory of shelter units and beds, State-owned properties that they manage, and both federal and state budgets. Despite this over 100% increase in work load, staffing has remained exactly the same over these 12 years. Should the program staff be reduced down to four, it would be absolutely impossible to manage all of the State programs while absorbing the functions that support the federal HUD dollars that have benefited the State on an annual basis.

The Reduction in Force would seriously jeopardize federal funding, a mainstay for Homeless Program agencies. The on-line Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) has been uniquely developed and managed by Homeless Programs Branch

staff to meet HUD requirements, in order to qualify for much of the funding it provides. It would not be possible for other yet-to-be-named entities (all ready overburdened) to attempt to replicate this fundamental work. The prospect of losing the Homeless Program staffers who currently manage HMIS, in addition to those who administrate the HUD grants, would directly result in a loss of federal funds. HMIS is used throughout the state to track and assess the extent of homelessness and its related services. It is crucial to sustain the expertise and resources that are necessary to manage the HMIS, which can only happen by avoiding a Reduction in Force at the Homeless Programs Branch.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider *any* potential reduction of the Homeless Programs Branch staff. The number of persons experiencing homelessness in Oahu has exceeded crisis proportions. Each of the positions targeted in this potential reduction is necessary to manage the many contracts crucial for maintaining the much-needed services provided by Oahu's Homeless Programs, for which the *entire* Homeless Programs staff - in its current form - is a critical element.

In closing, I repeat my strong opposition to the potential Reduction in Force at the State Homeless Programs Branch. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Signed,

Pamela Menter
Safe Haven/Mental Health Kokua

Honorable Senator Suzanne
Chun-Oakland,

I am hearing impaired, and, while I have not been able to use Deaf Services Section on Oahu (I live on Kauai), I know Ele Macdonald through DHHAB and realize what a loss it will be if she is no longer the supervisor. DSS is apparently being cut to the bone and for the life of me I can't imagine the remaining staff being able to adequately serve almost 250 clients. With her years of experience she knows Deaf Culture and how to best meet the needs of her clients. Someone without that knowledge and experience will have a very difficult or even impossible task.

Please do your best to keep Ele Macdonald as supervisor of Deaf Services Section so the Deaf can continue receiving the services they need and deserve.

Thank you.

Angenette M Molina
DHHAB- Kauai

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*...«☆»Precious Hawaii☆»...*o=

Francine Mae Lehuanani Aona Kenyon

2520 Jasmine Street

Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY

ON

**DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Informational Hearing

with

Senate and House Committees on Human Services

and

Senate and House Committee on Health

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 329

Aloha, Chair Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Vice-Chair Les Ihara, Chair John Mizuno, Vice-Chair Tom Brower, Chair David Ige, Vice-Chair Josh Green, Chair Ryan Yamane, and Vice-Chair Scott Nishimoto, and Members of Senate and House Committees of Human Services and Senate and House Committees on Health,

My name is Francine Aona Kenyon and am an advocate for the rights of Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind individuals. I also serve as the vice-chair of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB). Art Frank, the Chair of DHHAB, and DHHAB has received the concerns from the general population about the Deaf Services Section (D.S.S.) of Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Department of Human Services.

I firmly and strongly urge you not to eliminate these important positions including the vacant positions within the DSS for three important reasons: (1) effective and efficient direct services; (2) qualified VR staff personnel serving (3) alarmingly increase of people with hearing loss statewide.

For over 20 years we have worked diligently to obtain services equal to individuals who are blind. It is VERY IMPORTANT for Department of Human Services to provide effective and efficient direct services to Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and deaf-blind people in the state because we have special communication needs that impact how services are provided to us.

The Deaf community has brought many concerns to the attention of DHHAB. We were informed that the Governor has the power to stop funding for positions, but only the Legislature has the power to abolish positions. We urge you to keep these positions to ensure adequate services are provided to the Deaf community

Therefore, I strongly and firmly urge you NOT to abolish positions now allocated to the DSS and encourage the State to hire more qualified deaf or hearing VR applicants skilled in American Sign

Language to guarantee more future deaf and hard-of-hearing graduates with the job opportunities so they could come home and work in DSS or comprehensive Vocational Rehabilitation Center for the deaf.

Sincerely,

Francine Mae Aona Kenyon
Deaf Advocate

Francine Mae Lehuanaani Aona Kenyon

2520 Jasmine Street

Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY

ON

**DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Informational Hearing

with

Senate and House Committees on Human Services

and

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Friday, September 11, 2009 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 329

Aloha, Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Senator Vice-Chair Les Ihara, Rep. John Mizuno, Rep. Tom Brower, Senator David Ige, Senator Josh Green, Rep. Ryan Yamane, and Rep. Scott Nishimoto; Members of Senate and House Committees of Human Services and Senate and House Committees on Health, and Friends,

I am Alma Hatakeyama and am deaf. I graduated from Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind. It is very important that Deaf Services Section stay open to helping deaf and hard of hearing children and parents of deaf and hard of hearing children.

Please do not eliminate the positions. It is too much for one counselor to handle over 240 cases so we need more staff to helping deaf and hard-of-hearing VR clients.

Before I used VR services to help me look for the job, I went to AKCC to learn math, English to be trained for office clerical work. When I withdrew from KCC, VR gave me job training classes. Even though, VR gave me lots of job training, I hope to find the right kind of job that would fit.

I fully support to keep Deaf Services Section open with more positions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alma Hatakeyama

Francine Mae Lehuanani Aona Kenyon

2520 Jasmine Street

Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY

ON

**DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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with

Senate and House Committees on Human Services

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I am Mildred Garrett and am deaf. I am 85 years old. I am now retired. I used to work in Pearl Harbor Naval Laundromat in World War II. When I retired, the Laundromat closed. My friend helped me work in the Laundromat. Then the company got broke. Then I asked my deaf friends if I can work as layer and cutter in the sewing factory. Then when the company got broke, then we signed for retirement. Then I got my own SSI but it was too small so I dropped SSI and got SSSI from my husband who was in military which was more than my SSI.

Though, I never got some help from Vocational Rehabilitation, Hawai'i Services on Deafness helped me and I like to do volunteer work. I want Deaf Services Section stay open for young deaf people who might need their services. I am too old and don't need VR help anymore but want to do more volunteering.

Sincerely,

Mildred Garrett

TESTIMONY
ON
DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Informational Hearing
with
Senate and House Committees on Human Services
and
Senate and House Committee on Health

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 329

Aloha, Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Senator Vice-Chair Les Ihara, Rep. John Mizuno, Rep. Tom Brower, Senator David Ige, Senator Josh Green, Rep. Ryan Yamane, and Rep. Scott Nishimoto, Members of Senate and House Committees of Human Services and Senate and House Committees on Health, and Friends,

My name is Brenda Henline and I am deaf myself. I work at Goodwill Industries for more than 20 years but even though, the pay is too small. I am afraid of looking for another job with better pay. I did not get any help from Vocational Rehabilitation counselor in finding the better job.

Though, I did not receive the Vocational Rehabilitation assistance in job search, I fully support to keep the Deaf Services Section because I need sign language interpreter at work when I need for Deaf Services Section to help me. I won't be able to understand the VR counselor who does not sign for deaf.

I strongly urge you not to eliminating the important positions in Deaf Services Section. Why?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brenda Henlin

TESTIMONY
ON
DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Informational Hearing
with
Senate and House Committees on Human Services
and
Senate and House Committee on Health

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 329

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My name is Yousini Donegan and I am deaf myself. I learned sewing through the vocational training at the deaf school in a work-study program after graduating from the deaf school. I continued working as a clothing sewer until the business was slow. Then I worked in the printer shop but the pay was too small so I decided to look for another job and found one at Queen's Hospital where I continue working now.

Though, I did not receive the Vocational Rehabilitation assistance in job search, I fully support to keep the Deaf Services Section because I may need interpreter funding assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation if necessary for my job.

I strongly urge you not to eliminating the important positions in Deaf Services Section. Why? there are many deaf children so parents need VR help to go to college and to get better paying job than what I work now as laundry cleaner. If I had a chance, I would have gone to college and get the best job with better paying job.

Sincerely,

Yousini Donegan

Francine Mae Lehuanani Aona Kenyon

2520 Jasmine Street

Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY

ON

**DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Informational Hearing

with

Senate and House Committees on Human Services

and

Senate and House Committee on Health

Friday, September 11, 2009 at 9 a.m. in Conference Room 329

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I am Kimiyo Nakamiyo and am deaf myself, too. I am concerned about the parents of deaf children. Where will they go if there is no Deaf Services Section to help them? We need more staff to help parents of deaf children and youth and to help other deaf people find the jobs..

Sincerely,

Kimiyo Nakamiyo

Francine Mae Lehuanaani Aona Kenyon

2520 Jasmine Street

Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY

ON

**DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Informational Hearing

with

Senate and House Committees on Human Services

and

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I am Guy Tamayoshi and am hard-of-hearing consumer. I worked in many different banks and now am working with the Bank of Hawaii in data clerical department.

I strongly support that the Deaf Services Section be kept opened with the current staff but do not eliminate the supervisor position. We need more staff people who can sign and understand Deaf culture better than anyone who is not actively involved in the Deaf community.

I understand that there is a budget cut but it is very important not to change the Deaf Services Section services and staffing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Guy Tamayoshi



**Building Community
Through our Youth**

Pa'ia Youth Council, Inc.
Db a

**The Pa'ia Youth
& Cultural Center**
(Hale Na 'Opio)

28 Hana Hwy (Baby Park)

P.O. Box 790999
Pa'ia, HI 96779

(808) 579-8354
Phone & Fax

Email us:

admin@pyccmaui.org

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www.pyccmaui.org

September 8, 2009

Dear Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland:

Please reconsider the impact of laying off all but 3 of the Office of Youth Services (OYS) employees. This will have a severe impact on services to youth statewide. OYS has been the lead state agency for the past **twenty** years in providing youth assessment, advocacy, program development, training, a flow of state and federal funds, communication, vehicles for collaboration, and solicitation/lobbying of federal funds. I believe that all of this will be lost if the OYS is drastically eviscerated. The present staff at OYS is extremely well-informed on youth issues and funding opportunities. The work that they do requires the staff that they have.

I sincerely question the intelligence of this decision. To date there has been no plan for the replacement of the functions of OYS. The Pa'ia Youth Council, Inc. has had contracts with OYS to provide prevention services for youth for the past 14 years. OYS and the funding streams that they have procured to allow providers to continue to offer services to Hawaii's youth are priceless.

Of immediate concern is:

1. Who is going to continue to monitor our existing contract with the OYS?
2. Who is going to hold the RFI and then write the next RFP for Positive Youth Development Programs state wide?
3. How many providers of services for youth will have to shut their doors if the funding opportunities managed through OYS cease to exist?
4. Who is going to be the lobbying agent for federal funds for youth for the state of Hawaii?
5. Why would the State agree to dissolve an agency with twenty years of effective history? What an incredible waste this will be!

I strongly urge you to find this out before you continue on this course of action. There must be a better way to meet the needs of the present financial crisis. I want to see a back-up plan for EVERY budget cut contemplated by the State. Don't the people of Hawaii deserve this?

Susun White
Executive Director

**Testimony for the Informational Briefing
on Friday, September 11, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am
at the Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

Dear Honorable Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Committees on Human Services for the Senate and the House of Representatives:

We oppose the proposed elimination of the Supervisor position of the Deaf Services Section of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Eliminating this position will reduce the current staff down to three: a counselor (newly hired), an aide, and a secretary. Actually we understand the Department of Human Services (DHS) has already relocated Eleanor Macdonald who is/was the supervisor of the Deaf Services Section (DSS). Replacing Ms. Macdonald will be greatly difficult since she was the most experienced on the staff and had the most seniority. She knew how to work with Deaf clients. She was very successful in ensuring a high rate of rehabilitations in DSS.

When another counselor position was vacated and recently lost, she took over that caseload of Deaf and hard of hearing clients, in addition to her supervisory duties. She acted as both DSS supervisor and counselor right up to the present. Losing her position creates a greater void than losing just a supervisor. DHS and VR have not told us what will happen to this Deaf caseload she was working with.

When DSS was established in 1997, it was not easy to fill the DSS positions including the supervisor position, due to various reasons. One is the job requirements relating to working with, and understanding, the unique population of Deaf clients and their culture. Another reason is the limited salary options; similar positions on the mainland offer better salaries. A critical reason the recruitment has been difficult is that when an interested candidate attempts to apply for a specific DSS position, very often we would find that the position has been frozen or cut. The candidate would end up looking for employment elsewhere.

We struggled and waited a long time to have someone of Ms. Macdonald's caliber to fill the DSS supervisor position. Having to fight to reinstate the supervisor position and finding someone with her qualifications is yet another hurdle for us.

Please do not allow this proposed cut of the Supervisor position of Deaf Services Section to go through!

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chung

**Testimony for the Informational Briefing
on Friday, September 11, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am
at the Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

Dear Honorable Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Committees on Human Services for the Senate and the House of Representatives:

We oppose the proposed cut of the Supervisor position of the Deaf Services Section of Vocational Rehabilitation.

At one time the Deaf Services Section (DSS) had 9 staff members, but due to freezes and cuts over the years, the staff number was reduced to the current number of 4. Now, because the supervisor position is being cut, DSS staff count is further decimated to 3.

This is a sad chapter in the history of Deaf Services Section (DSS).

A concerted Deaf community effort resulted in a legislative resolution for specialized vocational services for Deaf clients in 1996. 1997 happily saw DSS established. But – that was not when it began. The concept of DSS actually started further back than that. I remember, in the 1970's, my wife and I went to Deaf community meetings and advocated for improved services for Deaf clients in Vocational Rehabilitation. We wanted a section dedicated to Deaf caseloads. Then VR finally began hiring people who could work with Deaf clients. Eventually DSS came into being in 1997.

We are told that the remaining staff will be moved to another VR office at the Kapiolani address. We are told not to worry because they have other supervisors who "know sign language". Just knowing signs is not enough qualification for a supervisor position of DSS. Understanding Deafness should be required in addition to a high level of proficiency in sign language. This specialized knowledge pertains to how Deafness impacts not only the clients' ability to seek work and to maintain work, but also how it impacts their daily life, communication with the general community and interaction within the Deaf Culture.

Deleting the Supervisor position of the Deaf Services Section is huge step backward for the Deaf community. Please undo this proposed cut!

Respectfully submitted,
Tien Fook Chung

From: Marianne Chung [mailto:mariannechung@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 9:24 PM
To: Marianne Chung
Subject: Deaf Services Section

Please help us save Deaf Services Section. It looks like DHS VR is going to shut it down by cutting Ele Macdonald's supervisory position of Deaf Services Section. This is after they eliminated the second Deaf Services counselor position. Earlier this year Susan Foard told us no, they would not do this. But it looks like they are doing it, just as we had feared they would.

Deaf Services Section has helped deaf and hard of hearing clients, including us, for many years. They found us jobs, helped us get into college and helped us in many ways. They are good at helping us because they know Deaf people and they know American Sign Language.

We are told now that they are not closing Deaf Services - only moving it to the VR office at 600 Kapiolani Blvd. We are struggling to understand the math involved here.

There is only one Deaf Services counselor, newly hired, among the three Deaf Services staff being moved to the Kapiolani office. There are at least two or three deaf caseloads being moved as well.

They say they will have other supervisors with ASL skills in the Kapiolani office to help out. Does that mean those supervisors will assume the duties of the soon-to-be-cut Deaf Services supervisor and the eliminated counselor position? And that they will add on all these extra clients to their current caseloads? We have yet to hear from DHS VR on this issue.

PLEASE save Deaf Services. We need it!

Sincerely Yours,

Tien Fook Chung
and
Marianne Chung

**TESTIMONY ON DEAF SERVICES SECTION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES AND ON HEALTH

Friday, September 11, 2009 @ 9:00 a. m. at Conference Room 329

Aloha, my name is Art Frank and I am the Chair of the Deaf Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB) of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Human Services.

Although I will not be able to attend your hearing, we are concerned that a cutback of six positions----66 2/3 percent----will leave us with a young deaf counselor with 1 ½ years of experience still attending the University of Hawaii for her masters degree, a counselor's assistant and a secretary.

The supervisor's position was eliminated, though she provides direct services to 174 clients while the counselor has 70 clients. Furthermore, the supervisor who understands the deaf and deaf culture, has decades of experience working with the deaf, is a mentor to the young deaf counselor. No way will the counselor be able to service 244 clients alone.

We are concerned that consolidating the DSS with a hearing section where the staff are inadequately trained to work with the deaf will adversely affect deaf services. **Moreover without our own section supervisor, the DSS may be eliminated (that's what the deaf are afraid of) with more cuts coming.** We'll be back prior to the 1990's when too many deaf without adequate training or education ended up eating off the government trough on welfare or SSI because no one would hire them. **Despite what's happening, no one can adequately explain how the department can service 244 clients with one counselor----and that's a tragedy.**

I wasn't born deaf, but became deaf at 34 years old. I've been actively involved with the deaf community for nearly 30 years. Like many deaf I am frustrated at what's happening after more than 20 year of fighting for what we have today at DVR. If this becomes a reality we will be taking a **giant step backwards** for the deaf community of Hawaii.

I strongly urge you not to eliminate our positions at the Deaf Services Section, especially the supervisor's position.

Thank you very much.

ART FRANK, CHAIR
Deaf Hard of Hearing Advisory Board (DHHAB)
86-363 Kawili St
Waianae, HI 96792-2941



888 Milliani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.536.2351
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Interim of 2009
Informational Briefing

Senate Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Human Services

Senate Committee on Health
House Committee on Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
September 11, 2009

The HGEA opposes the proposed layoffs within the Departments of Health and Human Services and other departments. The administration has been unable to provide a rationale for the layoffs despite requests from the HGEA and the Legislature. It is the administration's obligation to explain why these and other program cuts are necessary and why other alternatives were not seriously considered.

Moreover, the administration has consistently and deliberately violated our collective bargaining agreements by unilaterally implementing the reduction-in-force without consultation, which is required under our contracts. The lack of consultation has created unnecessary confusion and anxiety among state employees, including those in the Departments of Health and Human Services.

Instead of laying off almost 1,200 employees, and possibly more in a second round of layoffs, the Governor could rely upon attrition and retirement incentives as other states have done successfully. According to the Employees' Retirement System, approximately 2,250 state employees are expected to retire by the end of December 2009. If only a portion of these positions are filled over the next two years, the state could save significant amounts of money, making layoffs unnecessary if attrition and retirements are used to reduce the size of the state's workforce.

The governor appears intent on permanently reducing the number of state employees even though the vital work they perform will continue. This is bad public policy and will limit the ability of state government through the Departments of Health and Human Services to provide important services to some of our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

Kevin Mulligan

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

Written Testimony on Informational Briefing –
Department of Human Services and Department of Health
Friday, September 11, 2009
9am Conference Room 329
State Capitol

To: Senate Committee on Human Services Senate Committee on Health
 Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator David Ige, Chair

 House Committee on Human Services House Committee on Health
 Rep. John Mizuno, Chair Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair

Fr: Alan Shinn
 Executive Director
 Coalition For A Drug-Free Hawaii
 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy, Suite A259
 Honolulu, HI 96817

This written testimony is being submitted regarding the informational briefing on DHS and DOH. The Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii (CDFH), a non-profit organization, has been a state contractor for substance abuse prevention services since the early 1990's. CDFH has worked under agreement with the Department of Human Services/ Office of Youth Services (OYS) and Department of Health / Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division providing an array of effective, evidence-based prevention programs for youth, their families, both in the schools and community.

The State budget is under severe economic duress and everyone must sacrifice to help reduce the large deficit spending. However, it appears that State employees in certain divisions are being asked to take a disproportionate share of the burden through reduction in workforce that would affect community services.

DHS/ OYS is one such division that has almost all administrative employees on the layoff list. While OYS does provide services to incarcerated youth, a majority of its monies go out as POS contracts to primarily non-profit service providers serving vulnerable, high-risk youth populations and their families. Contracted service providers work closely with OYS to enhance service provision. Should this doomsday layoff scenario be carried out, it would decimate the office's administrative infrastructure that provides contract procurement, fiscal reimbursement, and program monitoring, all essential functions that directly impact service quality.

For example, providers are paid in arrears for their services and must closely monitor cash flow. Delays in timely reimbursement for their services could result in delinquent accounts payables and even payroll. Chronic cash flow problems would mean loss of vendors, destabilized staffing, and make service provision impossible.

We urge the administration and legislature to consider a combination of strategies that will spread out the fiscal burden by including more humane cost cutting measures as well as revenue generating strategies to preserve essential health and human services.

Informational Briefing
Joint Committees on Senate Human Services
& Health & House Human Services & Health
September 10, 2009

Senator Chun Oakland, Senate Human Services Committee Chair,
Senator Ige, Senate Health Committee Chair,
Representative Mizuno, House Human Services Committee Chair,
Representative Yamane, House Health Committee Chair,

Committee Chairs and Members of the Committees:

First, thank you very much for holding this Informational Briefing to investigate the impact the proposed state staff reductions will have on the various programs in the Department of Human Services and Department of Health.

I would like to bring the following questions to your attention because I am very concerned about the quality of the services that will be provided the Dept. of Human Services and the Dept. of Health after the staff reductions, since they serve the most vulnerable and neediest populations in our State. I am also very concerned about the working conditions and potential for harm to the State workers who will be reassigned to another position because of the Reduction in Force (RIF) being proposed.

- 1) If many of the State employees who are being eliminated are in supervisory positions, are there written plans to address how the programs will continue to provide their mandated services with less staff and with less knowledge and skills? If no written plans are yet available, when will the draft plans be available for the public's review? (Per Ch 37, Part IV, written plans that describe the program services and program objectives are supposed to be done on a regular basis and any significant restructuring to a program requires the revision of the plan as well as specifics on the revised budget.)
- 2) With the significant changes being made to the various State programs, it seems that some of the Administrative Rules need to be amended, or new Rules established to deal with the change in the program's infrastructure. When will public meetings to review the proposed program changes--due to a reduction in state employees, or budget cuts--be scheduled? (Per CH 91, conducting public meetings is a required part of the Rule Making process.)
- 3) In professions such as social work and nursing, the skills set evolve over the years, especially with new technology being introduced on a regular basis. If the individual is in direct practice, the individual is required to keep up with the latest and 'best practices'. Who is going to insure that the reassigned workers will update their skills set (retrain the workers) and obtain their certification or licensing if they lack one at the time of the reassignment?

Has the risk for potential harm to the consumers or clients been evaluated and plans implemented to prevent injury or death?

For example, I have heard anecdotes that individuals who have been in administrative (paperwork type) positions for the past 15+ years will now be returning to clinical, direct practice as a social worker in CPS or with violent at-risk youth.

- 4) What about protection for the workers who have to enter into risky situations in their reassigned positions, such as a domestic violence or child abuse situation? Although they may have done this kind of work years ago, they are no longer up-to-date in the latest and best practices. Has a plan to protect the worker from potential harm and potential workers' compensation claims been developed? If not, will policies and procedures be implemented before the workers report to their new reassigned position?

Thank you very much for this opportunity to present this testimony to you. Your continue time, support and attention to the aforementioned questions would be greatly appreciated.

Submitted By:

Laurie Hirohata, MSW, MEd

Consequences of Not Conducting BEACH Monitoring

Positions in Clean Water Branch (CWB), Monitoring & Analysis Section are necessary to fulfill the mandates of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to keep our waters safe to swim in and our fish safe to eat.

Section 106 of the CWA mandates recreational water monitoring, development of water quality standards, issuing NPDES permits, developing of total maximum daily loads, etc. The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000 amended the federally mandated CWA in part by adding section 303(j) which required the State to develop and implement programs for monitoring and notification for coastal recreational waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access that are used by the public.

If DOH does not apply for BEACH Grant funds and does not participate in the BEACH Monitoring Program, it would violate the CWA section 106 federal mandates and increase the potential to lose funding and delegation. NPDES permits are required for many ARRA construction projects, CIPs, and Renewable Energy Projects. If DOH loses the NPDES permit program, businesses would have to go to Region 9 EPA in San Francisco to pursue an NPDES permit, thus lengthening the time and cost of acquiring a permit, as well as delaying the start of construction projects.

If DOH does not conduct beach monitoring, EPA would step in and contract out the Beach monitoring and the State will lose any rights in the manner in which bacteria data is interpreted and how the beaches are managed (e.g. close beaches). When we have a significant rain event, the EPA indicator bacteria numbers jump and exceed the standards. The high bacteria numbers do not only represent human sewage. The numbers could be from birds, animals, or replication of the indicator bacteria in soils, biofilm, sand, and decaying organic matter. However, the EPA contractor will be required to post warning signs on all the beaches with high indicator bacteria numbers even though the numbers may not reflect human fecal contamination. All popular beaches would be affected.

The Clean Water Branch currently follows a DOH Decision Rule and uses a secondary tracer bacteria to determine if human fecal contamination is the cause of the high bacteria numbers.

Instead of having warning signs posted at Waikiki Beach, Hanalei, Kapalua Beach, Kalapaki Beach, Poipu, Kailua Beach, etc., we issue a Brown Water Advisory. Not accepting the BEACH Grant funds will result in Hawaii losing our discretion in how we post warning signs on our beaches.

Every year, Dr. Beach of the National Healthy Beach Campaign rates the beaches of the United States. Hanalei Beach was selected as the top beach for 2009. Since 1991, Hawaii has won the best beach in the United States 12 times. Water quality and bacteria levels are the first criteria for this selection. If we do not test our beaches, we would not meet the first criteria and needless to say, tourism will suffer. See top beaches: <http://www.ihrc.fiu.edu/nhbc/>

Other travel websites, like Travelocity, honor our beaches because our water quality is good and therefore our beaches are safe. As a consequence of not conducting BEACH monitoring, the tourists may not come. The world has many great looking beaches, but their water quality is not as good as ours. We need to continue to monitor our beaches to continue to prove to the world that our recreational water quality is safe for residents and tourists.

September 11, 2009

Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives and Senators,

I am writing to ask you for your help in stopping the abolishment of 4 positions in the Hawaii Department of Health. The loss of these positions will be detrimental to Hawaii's public health, economy, and environment. The abolishment will leave only one employee left for Oahu in the Monitoring Section of the Clean Water Branch. The Monitoring Section staff works under the auspice of the EPA Clean Water Act, and is the sole EPA BEACH Program implementer. The abolishment of the 4 positions will result in the following effects:

- 1) Loss of consistent island-wide bacterial and water quality monitoring at Oahu's beaches. This data is used to identify if beach waters are contaminated by bacteria (i.e. if the waters are safe for recreation). One employee cannot cover all of Oahu's beaches.
- 2) Negative impact on tourism. Tour companies and individual tourists are influenced by our data. Several publications and reports such as the Dr. Beach report use water quality and bacteria levels as ranking criteria. Since 1991, Hawaii has won the best beach award 12 times, due in large part to our excellent water quality. Without Monitoring data, Hawaii will not be able to meet the criteria, and needless to say, tourism will suffer.
- 3) Loss of EPA Grant money. The Monitoring Section's work brings in BEACH Grant money which **DO NOT REQUIRE MATCHING STATE FUNDS**. In 2009 the award was \$323,000. Since 2003, the total has been \$2,259,327. Other EPA projects in jeopardy are slated to bring in over \$180,000.
- 4) Greatly reduced number of water pollution investigations. The Monitoring staff investigates over 200 cases/year, preventing ocean and stream pollution. These include cases such as Pflueger and Hokulia, cases that taint the waters, damage our reefs, and kill wildlife.

I feel that stopping the abolishment of these 4 positions is important. The long-term effects of these layoffs will have a far greater negative impact than proposed benefits from short-term cost-savings. Protection of public safety, Hawaii's environment, and our tourist industry plus the influx of EPA funds are priceless results from the salaries of only 4 employees.

Thank you for your support.

If you require further information about the Monitoring Section in the Clean Water Branch, please feel free to contact Alec Wong, Branch Chief, or Watson Okubo, Monitoring Supervisor at 586-4309.

(1) describe the specific quality, during 1973, with appropriate supplemental descriptions as shall be required to take into account seasonal, tidal, and other variations, of all navigable waters and the waters of the contiguous zone;

(2) include an inventory of all point sources of discharge (based on a qualitative and quantitative analysis of discharges) of pollutants, into all navigable waters and the waters of the contiguous zone; and

(3) identify specifically those navigable waters, the quality of which—

(A) is adequate to provide for the protection and propagation of a balanced population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife and allow recreational activities in and on the water;

(B) can reasonably be expected to attain such level by 1977 or 1983; and

(C) can reasonably be expected to attain such level by any later date.

(b)(1) Each State shall prepare and submit to the Administrator by April 1, 1975, and shall bring up to date by April 1, 1976 and biennially thereafter, a report which shall include

(A) a description of the water quality of all navigable waters in such State during the preceding year, with appropriate supplemental descriptions as shall be required to take into account seasonal, tidal, and other variations, correlated with the quality of water required by the objective of this Act (as identified by the Administrator pursuant to criteria published under section 304(a) of this Act) and the water quality described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph;

(B) an analysis of the extent to which all navigable waters of such State provide for the protection and propagation of a balanced population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and allow recreational activities in and on the water;

(C) an analysis of the extent to which the elimination of the discharge of pollutants and a level of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of a balanced population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife and allows recreational activities in and on the water, have been or will be achieved by the requirements of this Act, together with recommendations as to additional action necessary to achieve such objectives and for what waters such additional action is necessary;

(D) an estimate of (i) the environmental impact, (ii) the economic and social costs necessary to achieve the objective of this Act in such State, (iii) the economic and social benefits of such achievement, and (iv) an estimate of the date of such achievement; and

(E) a description of the nature and extent of nonpoint sources of pollutants, and recommendations as to the programs which must be undertaken to control each category of such sources, including an estimate of the costs of implementing such programs.

(2) The Administrator shall transmit such State reports, together with an analysis thereof, to Congress on or before October 1, 1975, and October 1, 1976, and biennially thereafter.

133 U.S.C. 1315

within nine months after the date of enactment of this title (and from time to time thereafter) information on alternative waste treatment management techniques and systems available to implement section 201 of this Act.

(3) The Administrator, after consultation with appropriate Federal and State agencies and other interested persons, shall promulgate within one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this subsection guidelines for identifying and evaluating innovative and alternative wastewater treatment process and techniques referred to in section 201(g)(5) of this Act.

(4) For the purposes of this subsection, such biological treatment facilities as oxidation ponds, lagoons, and ditches and trickling filters shall be deemed the equivalent of secondary treatment. The Administrator shall provide guidance under paragraph (1) of this subsection on design criteria for such facilities, taking into account pollutant removal efficiencies and, consistent with the objective of the Act, assuring that water quality will not be adversely affected by deeming such facilities as the equivalent of secondary treatment.

(e) The Administrator, after consultation with appropriate Federal and State agencies and other interested persons, may publish regulations, supplemental to any effluent limitations specified under subsections (b) and (c) of this section for a class or category of point sources, for any specific pollutant which the Administrator is charged with a duty to regulate as a toxic or hazardous pollutant under section 307(a)(1) or 311 of this Act, to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, and drainage from raw material storage which the Administrator determines are associated with or ancillary to the industrial manufacturing or treatment process within such class or category of point sources and may contribute significant amounts of such pollutants, to navigable waters. Any applicable controls established under this subsection shall be included as a requirement for the purposes of section 301, 302, 307, or 403, as the case may be, in any permit issued to a point source pursuant to section 402 of this Act.

(f) The Administrator, after consultation with appropriate Federal and State agencies and other interested persons, shall issue to appropriate Federal agencies, the States, water pollution control agencies, and agencies designated under section 208 of this Act, within one year after the effective date of this subsection (and from time to time thereafter) information including (1) guidelines for identifying and evaluating the nature and extent of nonpoint sources of pollutants, and (2) processes, procedures, and methods to control pollution resulting from—

(A) agricultural and silvicultural activities, including runoff from fields and crop and forest lands;

(B) mining activities, including runoff and siltation from new, currently operating, and abandoned surface and underground mines;

(C) all construction activity, including runoff from the facilities resulting from such construction;

(D) the disposal of pollutants in wells or in subsurface excavations;

(4) The Administrator shall promptly prepare and publish proposed regulations setting forth a revised or new water quality standard for the navigable waters involved.

(A) if a revised or new water quality standard submitted by such State under paragraph (3) of this subsection for such waters is determined by the Administrator not to be consistent with the applicable requirements of this Act, or

(B) in any case where the Administrator determines that a revised or new standard is necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.

The Administrator shall promulgate any revised or new standard under this paragraph not later than ninety days after he publishes such proposed standards, unless prior to such promulgation, such State has adopted a revised or new water quality standard which the Administrator determines to be in accordance with this Act.

(d)(1)(A) Each State shall identify those waters within its boundaries for which the effluent limitations required by section 301(b)(1)(A) and section 301(b)(1)(B) are not stringent enough to implement any water quality standard applicable to such waters. The State shall establish a priority ranking for such waters, taking into account the severity of the pollution and the uses to be made of such waters.

(B) Each State shall identify those waters or parts thereof within its boundaries for which controls on thermal discharges under section 301 are not stringent enough to assure protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife.

(C) Each State shall establish for the waters identified in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, and in accordance with the priority ranking, the total maximum daily load, for those pollutants which the Administrator identifies under section 304(a)(2) as suitable for such calculation. Such load shall be established at a level necessary to implement the applicable water quality standards with seasonal variations and a margin of safety which takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality.

(D) Each State shall estimate for the waters identified in paragraph (1)(D) of this subsection the total maximum daily thermal load required to assure protection and propagation of a balanced, indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife. Such estimates shall take into account the normal water temperatures, flow rates, seasonal variations, existing sources of heat input, and the dissipative capacity of the identified waters or parts thereof. Such estimates shall include a calculation of the maximum heat input that can be made into each such part and shall include a margin of safety which takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the development of thermal water quality criteria for such protection and propagation in the identified waters or parts thereof.

(2) Each State shall submit to the Administrator from time to time, with the first such submission not later than one hundred and eighty days after the date of publication of the first identification of pollutants under section 304(a)(2)(D), for his approval the waters identified and the loads established under paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), and (1)(D) of this subsection. The Administrator shall either approve or disapprove such identification and

202(a)(2) of this Act. Such grant may pay up to 100 per centum of the costs of technical evaluation of the operation of the treatment works, costs of training of persons (other than employees of the grantee), and costs of disseminating technical information on the operation of the treatment works.

(33 U.S.C. 1255)

GRANTS FOR POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMS

SEC. 106. (a) There are hereby authorized to be appropriated the following sums, to remain available until expended, to carry out the purposes of this section—

(1) \$60,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1973;

and

(2) \$75,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974, and the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, \$100,000,000 per fiscal year for the fiscal years 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1980, \$75,000,000 per fiscal year for the fiscal years 1981 and 1982, such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1983 through 1985, and \$75,000,000 per fiscal year for each of the fiscal years 1986 through 1990;

for grants to States and to interstate agencies to assist them in administering programs for the prevention, reduction, and elimination of pollution, including enforcement directly or through appropriate State law enforcement officers or agencies.

(b) From the sums appropriated in any fiscal year, the Administrator shall make allotments to the several States and interstate agencies in accordance with regulations promulgated by him on the basis of the extent of the pollution problem in the respective States.

(c) The Administrator is authorized to pay to each State and interstate agency each fiscal year either—

(1) the allotment of such State or agency for such fiscal year under subsection (b), or

(2) the reasonable costs as determined by the Administrator of developing and carrying out a pollution program by such State or agency during such fiscal year.

whichever amount is the lesser.

(d) No grant shall be made under this section to any State or interstate agency for any fiscal year when the expenditure of non-Federal funds by such State or interstate agency during such fiscal year for the recurrent expenses of carrying out its pollution control program are less than the expenditure by such State or interstate agency of non-Federal funds for such recurrent program expenses during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1971.

(e) Beginning in fiscal year 1974 the Administrator shall not make any grant under this section to any State which has not provided or is not carrying out as a part of its program—

(1) the establishment and operation of appropriate devices, methods, systems, and procedures necessary to monitor, and to compile and analyze data on (including classification according to eutrophic condition), the quality of navigable waters and to the extent practicable, ground waters including biological monitoring; and provision for annually updating such data and including it in the report required under section 305 of this Act;

take into consideration their use and value for public water supplies, propagation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, recreation in and on the water, and agricultural, industrial and other purposes including navigation.

Such standards serve the dual purposes of establishing the water quality goals for a specific water body and serving as the regulatory basis for establishment of water quality-based treatment controls and strategies beyond the technology-based level of treatment required by sections 301(b) and 306 of the Act. States shall review and revise WQS in accordance with applicable regulations and, as appropriate, update their Water Quality Management (WQM) plans to reflect such revisions. Specific WQS requirements are found in 40 CFR part 131.

§ 130.4 Water quality monitoring.



(a) in accordance with section 106(e)(1), States must establish appropriate monitoring methods and procedures (including biological monitoring) necessary to compile and analyze data on the quality of waters of the United States and, to the extent practicable, ground-waters. This requirement need not be met by Indian Tribes. However, any monitoring and/or analysis activities undertaken by a Tribe must be performed in accordance with EPA's quality assurance/quality control guidance.

(b) The State's water monitoring program shall include collection and analysis of physical, chemical and biological data and quality assurance and control programs to assure scientifically valid data. The uses of these data include determining abatement and control priorities; developing and reviewing water quality standards, total maximum daily loads, wasteload allocations and load allocations; assessing compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits by dischargers; reporting information to the public through the section 305(b) report and reviewing site-specific monitoring efforts.

[50 FR 1779, Jan. 11, 1985, as amended at 54 FR 14359, Apr. 11, 1989]

§ 130.5 Continuing planning process.



(a) *General.* Each State shall establish and maintain a continuing planning process (CPP) as described under section 303(e)(3)(A)–(H) of the Act. Each State is responsible for managing its water quality program to implement the processes specified in the continuing planning process. EPA is responsible for periodically reviewing the adequacy of the State's CPP.

(b) *Content.* The State may determine the format of its CPP as long as the minimum requirements of the CWA and this regulation are met. The following processes must be described in each State CPP, and the State may include other processes at its discretion.

(1) The process for developing effluent limitations and schedules of compliance at least as stringent as those required by sections 301(b) (1) and (2), 306 and 307, and at least stringent as any requirements contained in applicable water quality standards in effect under authority of section 303 of the Act.

(2) The process for incorporating elements of any applicable areawide waste treatment plans under section 208, and applicable basin plans under section 209 of the Act.

(3) The process for developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and individual water quality based effluent limitations for pollutants in accordance with section 303(d) of the Act and §130.7(a) of this regulation.

(4) The process for updating and maintaining Water Quality Management (WQM) plans, including schedules for revision.

(5) The process for assuring adequate authority for intergovernmental cooperation in the implementation

[§342D-52] Testing of water and aquatic and other life. The director may test any water and aquatic and other life that has been subjected to an oil spill or any other form of water pollution and assess the environmental effects of the pollution, including its effects on:

- (1) The quality of the receiving water; and
- (2) Aquatic and other life.

If the department determines that the effects are such that it would be hazardous to consume the aquatic or other life, the department shall immediately notify the public of that hazard through the news media and by posting warning signs in the areas where the water and shoreline contain aquatic or other life that would be hazardous to consume. (L 1989, c 212, pt of §2)

Robert Pa
607 N. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Friday, September 11, 2009

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

Ele MacDonald and Alan Loo helped me to get job. They explained what kind job do I have experienced. Maybe I could get job like kitchen aide. Dishwasher, janitor and other things that I need. If Ele is departing then I will be very stuck and will have to go back to welfare or SSI that I can depend. My top priority that I really need a full time job but difficult find a job. Please don't put any staff on your listing to be a lay off.

Aloha,

Robert Pa

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

September 11, 2009

Ernest Kaeo III
830 University Ave, #1
Honolulu, HI 96826

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Friday, September 11, 2009

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

My name is Ernest Kaeo III. I was born and raised here in Honolulu. I heard about Deaf Service Section going move to other place. I don't know why. I want keep Ele. Why VR helped me find job and help me to learn many many things. Please I want keep Ele. Thank you

Aloha,
Ernest Kaeo III

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

Friday, September 11, 2009

Kim Guerrero
3458 McCarriston St
Honolulu, HI 96815

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I learned about Ele's leaving from Deaf Service Section because Governor Lingle thought she won't be needed. I thanked Ele. Why I got job at Walmart because of Ele. She did helped me find a job. She helped me to have a job interview. She helped me to go to school at Honolulu Community College to learn how to write, read, and math. I do not want her to leave from DSS because I need her and very easy communicate. I'm from international. I do not agree She should not get her RIF letter. Please please let Ele stay in DSS. I no want another counselor who don't know deaf culture. Thank you.

Aloha,
Kim Guerrero

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

September 11, 2009

James Guerrero
3458 McCarriston St
Honolulu, HI 96815

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

I am from Honolulu, I am deaf private citizen. I remember long time ago I never forget when I went visited VR that a person is not able to sign language. I was not very comfortable with him because he don't know the sign language and deaf culture. I told him you must learn how to use sign language. I was very frustrated due to a lack of communication. And I went to see my VR counselor for my appointment at 11 am on Saturday but counselor is not in a present. I blunted to his secretary that I feel wasted my gas to visit him. He later showed up. I looked at him that he is not formal wear. He wore short and tee shirt and slipper. Not very professional....

Later one year, I go back to DSS and got a new case under Ele. I feel so much better and communicate with her. Eleanor is a very good patient and listen my story about problem with other VR counselor. I still don't want Ele to leave because she is the only one know my deaf culture and sign language. I have no problem with her for a long time. Eleanor got me a good job until my job was laid off. I went back to Ele that I lost job. She help me to train me how to job interview, job club, and other things that need to be done.

So Please do not let her go because I know many deaf will be very sad if she leave.

Aloha,
James Guerrero

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

September 11, 2009

Julia Beesen
35 N. Kukui Street, #1112
Honolulu, HI 96817

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

My name is Julia Beesen. I'm from California and move here to become a Hawaii residence. I went to see Eleanor to ask for my need in to get Social Security benefit. Eleanor called California SSA and apply the benefit. Two days later, SSA called in Chicago. Then later Two days I received a new beneficiary. Wow that is fast processed. I'm so shocked and wow that is fast. Last week I went to see Ele to show her the paperwork of my medicare filing. I get my doctor appointment here. A woman gave me the Medicaid. I was surprised and don't have to go to SSA or Medicaid to stand long line. So surprised Ele have already done for me. I'm now very happy with her service. So fast and like a super woman. So happy now and peaceful. Very very good job!
I'm really very sad to learn that Eleanor received a RIF letter. I don't understand why Governor laid her off without an reason. That is very sad because very hard communicate with other counselor that they can't understand me because I'm not a very good English. And hopefully for Ele to stay the same position.

Aloha,
Julia Beesen

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

Daniel Wang
35 N. Kukui Street, #1112
Honolulu, HI 96817

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Friday, September 11, 2009

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

Hello, my name is Daniel Wang. I'm from the islander. Around last year, I first met Eleanor at the State Capitol. I asked her where is she worked at. She gave me her business card. I also gave her my business card. I read her business card about VR. I thought myself for a long time what I really need service from VR. I found out that DSS can help me to find a job. I explained Ele what I need to find a job. After Ele listened me what I need. I thought Ele will do later but I'm wrong she make a call to other agency to see if it is approved for me to be her case. She always run around and provided me what I need to work on the job processing. I studied Eleanor's character. Wow I can't explained you how Eleanor's performance job is. Her characteristic is encouraging client to get things done what they are supposed to be done. I also studied other people's characteristic. I always went different agency and talk to counselor. They didn't do anything but ignored me what I desperately need. I have a very important to tell you. I told Eleanor I have my eye problem. Eleanor listened and immediately call other eye doctor to have an appointment in the next day. Wow that is fast. I went to see my doctor but doctor cannot help me and referred me to advance eye doctor. I went to see my another eye doctor. I asked another doctor if they can provided an sign language interpreter but they refused. I also told Eleanor about doctor's refuse to provide an interpreter. She called to asked the doctor and got me an appointment. Interpreter is already provided. I learned that doctor explained me that my eye is need to have a surgery with interpreter. After my eye surgery, Now I'm able to see everything. I'm very satisfied with Eleanor's performance job.

I'm very much respectfully for Eleanor. One thing, I'm worried that if supervisory position is being abolishing. Only Eleanor know everything ABC to Z WHY? WHY? WHY laid her off?? If laid her off and hired or replace a new supervisory. Will a new person know everything ABC to Z? Supposed if I go visit a new supervisory and need their help to success my eye. They will say can work on it in a later date. I know I will becoming a blind and will not see anything in the world and will not be able to painting my own artwork for support my living. I can understand that you are able to find someone who know the fluently American Sign Language but I will not feeling comfortable to communicate if they are rusting to use their sign language and not acknowledgeable our deaf culture. Eleanor know old sign language and new sign language. I'm very comfortable with her cuz she know my old sign language. And if a person know only one ASL and no other difference sign language. I'm not able to communicate with them. And hurting my feeling and waste my time. Thank you for taking time and read my letter.

Aloha,
Daniel Wang

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

Sept 2, 2009

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Friday, September 11, 2009

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

My name is Chung Wang. I am Deaf. I am from Taiwan and now an American citizen. DVR has helped me a lot in the past and I hope that they may continue to do so by keeping the Deaf Services Section and not laying off its staff.

I see that Hoopono has its own section for blind people able to service the other islands and do much good for the blind people of Hawaii. I would like to see the Deaf Services Section become such an entity resplendent with comparable services able to serve the Deaf in Hawaii just as the blind are serviced.

Signed,

Chung Wang

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland

Doug S. Tong
3726 Manini Way
Honolulu HI 96816

September 2, 2009

The Honorable Governor Linda Lingle
Hawaii State Capitol
Office of the Governor
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Friday, September 11, 2009

Dear Honorable Governor Linda Lingle,

Hello I am Doug Tong. I am a Deaf pilot. I want to speak up on a very important issue to me, the Deaf Services Section (DSS). Keeping the DSS supervisor position is very important; because I communicate in ASL and it is important for me to be able to understand and communicate directly. Please do not lay off the supervisor of the DSS. I support the DSS and I want it to continue to serve Deaf people.

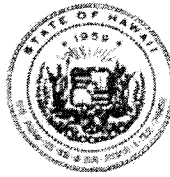
Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Doug Tong

dtong@hawaii.edu

CC: Lt. Governor Duke Aiona
Senator Susan Chun Oakland



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Millilani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-5700
Fax: (808) 587-5734

September 11, 2009

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

The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Health

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Rev. Dr. Carl Imakyure

SUBJECT: Impact of Position Eliminations on Public Services for Youths

Hearing: Friday, September 11, 2009; 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

It is appropriate that on this day when we remember the tragic events that rocked our nation eight years ago, we assess the damage that the State's fiscal 911 will have on Hawaii's most vulnerable populations—at risk and troubled children, youth, and families.

Let's be clear about these cuts. On the list of 1,194 state jobs slated for elimination on November 13 are 366 jobs at the Department of Human Services, including registered nurses (9 positions), social workers (21 positions), children & youth workers/specialists (43 positions), and investigators (7 positions), as well as a number of eligibility, family services, social services, and self-sufficiency support workers that help children, youth, and their families.

Especially hard hit will be the Office of Youth Services (OYS) which plans and contracts services for over 12,000 (annual count of registrants) homeless, runaway, delinquent, abused, substance abusing, at-risk, and troubled youth, including youth exiting the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. All eight of the OYS's children and youth specialists, as well as all support staffs, were sent pick slips, leaving just three administrators and one secretary remaining from the previous 20 staffs that currently manage over ninety program contracts for youth, bring into Hawaii over one million in Federal Juvenile

Justice & Delinquency Prevention monies annually, and co-monitor youth services contracts that other short-staffed State offices are not able to manage.

Laying off OYS staffs will have devastating impact on youth services. It will mean the diminution and possibly complete elimination of the highly utilized attendant care program diversion that serves arrest youths, the education/vocational services for kids at risk for drop-out, the homeless children and youth outreach services, the outreach and advocacy program that provides case management services for youth and families, the positive youth development program that offers prevention activities in some of Hawaii's riskiest communities, the truancy prevention program, the youth gang prevention program that works with gangs in Kalihi and Waipahu, and residential services that house abused, neglected, adjudicated, and homeless youth.

But position cuts will hit more than just programs. Through the OYS, at-risk and troubled children and youth of every community have a voice. That voice is now threatened to be muted via the cutting of the OYS.

The bottom line of the fiscal ledger is this fact: Our children and youth pay the price for these cuts. Knowing this, we trust that legislators will find alternative, creative solutions to simply cutting staff as a means to solving the State's fiscal woes. May you be blessed in your effort.

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

From: Kristine Pagano

Date: Friday, September 11, 2009

Subject: Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the
Blind Division: Deaf Services Section

Aloha, my name is Kristine Pagano. I am an active community member with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

I strongly do not support the elimination of positions being proposed by the Governor; the positions are located in the Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division (VR): Deaf Services Section. The elimination of Deaf Services Section positions from nine (9) to three (3) will have severe economic and service delivery impact for Deaf clients seeking employment.

There are 174 clients who will not be served in a timely matter because of the elimination of a supervisor who provide direct services. Another severe economic impact is a sign language interpreter would be hired to facilitate communication between the non-ASL counselor and client. Sign language interpreter charges range from \$40 to \$75/hour, not including mileage, tax etc. So the loss of the supervisor who can sign ASL providing direct services of 174 clients is huge. If you calculate per hour charges of an interpreter for each client with a counselor with no ASL skills, VR is not saving money nor can they find the money to pay interpreters for 174 Deaf clients. In addition, sign language interpreters will lose income because of the Deaf client's delayed services.

The delivery of services for the displaced clients has a great impact because one would need to establish a new counselor/client relationship and will not be centralized in one place. A Deaf client's self-identity of Deaf culture and ASL will diminish without a supportive Deaf Services Section.

The next goal for the Deaf Services Section is to expand their services through establishing a vocational rehabilitation services center, similar to Ho'opono serving clients who are blind. This is a positive economic impact for the State and Deaf community. Promises were made to community to use the federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 towards establishing a center. However with only three Deaf Services staff, how can clients achieve maximum potential? Please restore the Deaf Services Sections positions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kristine Pagano
Honolulu, Hawaii