

SB 1666



To: Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

From: Elisabeth Chun *Elisabeth Chun*
Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Friday, February 27, 2009
9:00 a.m. Room 211

Hearing date:
Friday,
February 27,
2009, 9:00 a.m.
Senate Ways
and Means
Committee.
Please deliver
copies of
testimony to
Room 211.

Subject: SB 1666 SD1: Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Details how the legislature will spend TANF funds, emphasizing child care services, work program contracts and related support services, the prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the purchase of service contracts for child protective services, information system maintenance, and administration costs. Transfers portions of TANF funds to the social services block grant and child care development fund.

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii’s youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop.

We strongly support this bill, especially with regard to the proposed transfer of \$19,800,000 for FY 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as necessary for FY 2010-2011 to the child care development fund.

Since 1996, TANF funds have been a critical part of the safety net for Hawaii’s families. The activities delineated in this bill are all foundational to sustaining and growing healthy families. For example, TANF quality funds could be transferred to Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for use as child care subsidies while parents are at work or in training. Why are TANF and CCDBG funding so critical to Hawaii at this time?

- This federal money is the only money coming forward which can assist our workforce with child care as families struggle to keep jobs or gain training to secure new jobs.
- This federal money is critical public money available to sustain Hawaii’s early childhood system development work, as described by Act 14 of the 2008 session.
- This federal money is the only public money likely to increase over the next two years especially with the recent passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that would mean increased millions of dollars to Hawaii.

The Good Beginnings Alliance **2006-2007** unduplicated count data shows that:

- 38,016 children birth to 5-years-old in Hawaii are low-income children which is 41.9% of that population group. Their families earn less than 185% of the federal poverty level;
- 4922 children in Hawaii are in families identified by TANF or TAONF
- 2,155 children were served in preschools by the Department of Human Services Child Care Connection public money – either TANF transfer or CCDBG
- 1,105 children were served by Department of Human Services' Preschool Open Doors.

We know the numbers of children served have increased since then and now, in the challenged economy of 2009, even more families are seeking work or are in training. Assistance to low-income families for early education and care is even more critical. This is a **current workforce issue**. Good Beginnings Alliance urges the committee to recognize that this is also a **future workforce issue**. We owe it to our children, families and State not to be short sighted in decision making even in scarce times – we urge you to pass this bill to help create a better future for our families. Without the quality funds allowable in the TANF transfer to CCDBG, Hawaii will struggle to progress.

For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502;
lchun@goodbeginnings.org

To: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Danielle Moskowitz, Vice President of Human Services
Laura Robertson, President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: February 26, 2009

Re: **Testimony in support of S.B. 1666 SD1 – Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families**

We applaud the legislature for its leadership in the area of supporting workforce development. During times of financial challenge, employment is a key component of the community's economic safety net. As government supports building a strong dependable workforce, its citizens become self-sufficient releasing their dependence on government assistance.

In fact, employment strengthens communities at all levels. Working citizens provide tax revenues to the government and are able to purchase goods and services from community businesses. Businesses run at top-efficiency when fully staffed with trained and motivated employees. When its citizens are employed, government is able to re-direct tax revenues to provide fundamental community services rather than family/individual financial public assistance.

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing educational and career development programs. Goodwill works with people who have employment barriers, including welfare dependency, economic and resource barriers, lack of education/work experience, illiteracy and disadvantaged youth. Last year, Goodwill served more than 9,400 individuals throughout the state in its career development and training programs and placed over 1,800 into jobs.

We appreciate the State's support in helping its economically disadvantaged citizens become trained for work and obtain assistance with job-search activities.

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

kim2 - Arline

From: patty paranada [pttyprnd@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 6:36 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Bill SB 1666 SD 1

I am in full support of continuing TANF funds for families. My husband and I are co-guardians of our three grandchildren and we are receiving TANF for them. I am so grateful that we qualified for these funds, because without it, I'm not sure how we would survive. Especially, in these times of the "economic downfall," we live from pay check to pay check. As a social worker, I have seen many families that also receive TANF funds, and I know that without it, they would be high risk for many family problems.

I am supporting this bill: SB 1666 SD1

Concerned citizen



kim4 - Elizabeth

From: Colleen Welty [Colleen@mfss.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 3:22 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: SB1666- Relating to Temporary Assistance To Needy Families
Attachments: image001.jpg

Aloha, I'm writing in support of SB 1666. Please keep and, if possible, increase funding for these essential supports and programs for needy families. In many states, TANF is one of the key sources of funding for child abuse prevention services, including Healthy Start, or Healthy Families America, as it is called on the Mainland. Mahalo for your support of this bill.

Colleen Welty
328 Hololani Str.
Pukalani, HI 96768

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication is intended only for the use of the addressee. It may contain information which is privileged or confidential under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the agent of the recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copy or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender at 808.242.0900 or via return internet electronic mail to the sender's address and expunge this communication without making any copies. Thank you for your cooperation.

Comments in Support of SB 1666-RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

By Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO, Child & Family Service

Senate Ways and Means Committee Hearing, Room 211, State Capitol

February 27, 2009, 9 a.m.

Two of our most critical societal problems are child abuse and domestic violence. There is strong evidence that in economic downturns the rates of child abuse and family violence increase at a time when the resources to both prevent and treat these problems actually decrease. This is the "perfect storm" and a scary proposition that Hawaii faces as government grapples with a sizeable deficit in the state budget.

I am Howard Garval, President and CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and largest human service organization that touches the lives of over 40,000 of Hawaii's people each year. We provide a comprehensive continuum of services from child abuse prevention, family strengthening services, domestic violence intervention, services to help youth overcome a variety of emotional and behavioral problems, and programs that help our Kupuna to thrive in the community as long as possible and that provide support to their caregivers.

Child & Family Service supports SB 1666 because it preserves services to families that help them stay in tact. With decreasing state funds, everything possible should be done to access alternative funds including Federal reimbursement like TANF. While last session the Legislature was concerned about protecting enough TANF funds in the reserve for cash assistance, the proposed use of TANF funds in SB 1666 protects enough reserves for cash assistance and still continues to support services that meet the other three TANF purposes other than direct cash assistance: 2) Employment training programs to help families become self-sufficient; 3) Teen pregnancy education and prevention; and 4) Services that keep the family unit in tact.

Perhaps the best way to make the case for SB 1666 is to look at what would happen if the TANF funded services go away. At Child & Family Service we already have experienced a 12% cut in FY 09 as part of the Department of Human Services' cross-the-board cut to all TANF funded programs. This was the Administration's response to the Legislature's restriction of \$27.6 million to build up the cash reserve for cash assistance. This meant cuts to such child abuse prevention programs as Enhanced Healthy Start and Family Strengthening Services, reductions in funding for Domestic Violence Advocacy for TANF recipients who get a waiver from work requirements because of domestic violence, and reductions in teen pregnancy prevention. Without such services, the likelihood is great that incidents of child abuse and domestic violence will increase even without the likely increase due to the worsening economy. This will destabilize/disintegrate more families and the human, social, and financial costs to our community will be substantial.

Of course, another important reality has been missing in the discussion about cutting programs. For nonprofit organizations that have already trimmed budgets to the bare essentials, the loss of these

TANF funds will mean significant additional layoffs that cannot be helpful to our economy. Some of those laid off employees could end up needing TANF benefits if they cannot find employment.

I urge you to pass SB 1666 that will preserve critical and essential services to our most vulnerable populations in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share these comments with you today.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB1666SD1

Dear Committee Members,

I urge you to ensure funding for Healthy Start and EHS and support SB1666SD1.

Healthy Start and EHS services are necessary for our community so that our children are safe and cared for in a nurturing manner. As we all know, in times of stress and crisis, people revert to their (many times) unhealthy, deep seeded ways and lifestyles. The Healthy Start program teaches parents The Nurturing Parenting program that has statistically shown a positive change in parenting styles. Women are screened at Maui Memorial Medical Center for SPECIFIC risk factors that have shown statistical significance in the areas of child abuse and neglect. These factors include abuse as a child, witnessing domestic violence, sexual abuse, drug and/or alcohol abuse, lack of child development expectations of a baby/toddler, a parent(s) with a mental health issue(s) and of course being a teen parent.

If a family is aware of the developmental stages of their children, they have knowledge of how and why their children act and feel the way they do. When parents don't know about child development, they tend to think of children as small adults and that's when abuse can creep in their lives many times without their conscious awareness.

I have worked as a nurse on Maui for 13 years and have seen the Healthy Start program nurture the families so they can in turn nurture their children. Children don't come with directions and Healthy Start is the only in home program statewide that stays in the family's lives for 3 years. Parenting can be an isolating experience for many families and they need guidance, support and knowledge so they are equipped to give their child the best experiences for growth and development. If this program is cut, the consequences will be drastic for our community and state. There will be more unwanted pregnancies, more families involved with CWS (Child Welfare Service) and much more domestic violence in our communities.

Healthy Start is teaching the "at risk" families how to decrease their risks for child abuse and neglect. Without Healthy Start there will be no place a family can go to try and change their risky behaviors. In home visiting works and has saved the state millions of dollars by giving knowledge and power to the families of Hawaii and keeping children from going into the system (Child Welfare Services).

I am pleading with the powers that be in the state of Hawaii to rethink such a hasty and very unwise decision to eliminate Healthy Start from the lives of our ohana and keiki's. Our children deserve a happy, healthy, loving childhood. Don't you agree?? Hawaii's future is in your hands. Let's do what's Pono!!!!

Aloha,



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

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

February 27, 2009

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim Chair
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: SB1666, SD1, RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO
NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

The Office of Youth Services strongly supports SB1666, SD1 relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families which provides funding for essential and worthwhile services for youth and families. In recent years, TANF funding has been used effectively to expand the ability of government and non-profit agencies to address teen pregnancy and related issues through pregnancy education programs and prevention services. Such programs and services promote resilient youth and strong families and therefore, make a positive impact on the future of our State.

The Office of Youth Services appreciates the amendments to the original bill recommended by the Department of Human services. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

kim2 - Arline

From: THANKFULHEARTS [thankfulhearts@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2009 11:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: This is a testimony in favor of SB1666 SD1"

Why Healthy Start should be continued:

Healthy Start is the point of intake for high risk infants conducts developmental screening and refers for developmental delays, to a medical home, and other early childhood services aimed at assuring children are ready to learn.

Johns Hopkins University's Elizabeth McFarlane, PhD, MPH states:

"Research has established that prevention programs save lives, prevent child maltreatment, promote child health, development and school readiness, and that these same programs save tax payer dollars by preventing school failure, delinquency, and incarceration in children growing up in families experiencing disadvantage and stress."

Francisco and Jacqueline Balberdi Jr.
Wailuku, HI 96793



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

February 27, 2008

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Members of the WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: SB 1666, Relating to TANF

Dear Senator Mercado Kim:

I am Gail Breakey, Executive Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute, testifying in support of SB 1666. This bill provides funding for a number of important human service programs aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, and enhancing youth development.

In previous hearings of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, many of us have testified as to the need for the Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start programs related to the safety and well-being of high risk infants. We also testified as to the effectiveness and cost-benefit of the Healthy Start program while emphasizing the fact that Enhanced Healthy Start does not replace the functions of Healthy Start.

It is clear that these funds will be needed as part of the effort to maintain these services for the highest risk families. The service providers are in the process of developing a more streamlined assessment process and services that will intervene with only the highest risk families, those with scores of 40 and over on the Family Stress Checklist, who according to the validation study on the Checklist have a fifty percent likelihood of becoming a child welfare case.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration of allocating these funds to the Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start programs, as well as to other needed services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Breakey".

Gail Breakey, Executive Director
Hawaii Family Support Institute

February 25, 2009

To Our Legislators:

While considering SB1666 please keep in mind the State of Hawaii's Healthy Start Program (HSP) modeled after nationwide and internationally for its effectiveness. The HSP works with low-income, high risk families with very young children between the ages of zero to three years old.

Felitti's 2000 study, "Adverse Childhood Experiences", shows a direct correlation of children with adverse experiences with adult chronic diseases: diabetes, obesity, heart and lung disease, cancer, smoking, depression and suicide, leading to premature death. HSP 'nips it on the bud' by providing home-based services to overwhelmed parents and their vulnerable children with resources, early intervention for physical, behavioral health, and environmental risks.

The program is funded by the State's Department of Health and suffering deep cuts at the peril of non-existence. I humbly ask you to search for provision for its continuity. We are hoping for the viability of the program once Federal funds and other private resources are available.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration,

Cynthia Koziolas
Kihei, Maui, HI 96753
(808) 283-4251