

**SB 1666**

**A JOINT LEGISLATIVE EFFORT**

E-Mail: [wamtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:wamtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Regarding: Ways & Means

Hearing on: 2-27-09;; 9:00 am; Rm. 211

**Date:** February 27, 2009

**To:**

**From:** Dennis Arakaki  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Family Forum / Hawaii Catholic Conference

**Re:** Strong Support – SB 1666, SD1

Honorable Chair and members of the Ways & Means Committee, I am Dennis Arakaki, representing both the Hawaii Family Forum and the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawaii. The Roman Catholic Church in Hawaii, under the leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, represents over 220,000 Catholics in Hawaii.

Today, I speak in strong support of SB 1666 that details how the legislature will spend TANF funds. This measure is critical during this budget crisis and allow the legislature to express its strong desire to maintain services to children and families. It is also important to help maintain the viability of the non-profits as their budgets shrink.

We ask that you keep this measure alive as a life-line for health and human services programs.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

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DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

February 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **S.B. 1666, S.D. 1 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE  
TO NEEDY FAMILIES**

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

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of S.B. 1666, S.D. 1 is to detail how the Legislature directs the Department of Human Services to spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (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 administrative costs. Transfers portions of TANF funds to the social services block grant and child care development fund.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this measure and has the following recommendation:

In Section 3, the measure proposes to appropriate \$34,000,000 in TANF funds towards cash assistance. The Department believes that this figure may only be reflecting the total annual cash assistance amount paid to eligible families and

does not include administrative and systems costs associated with eligibility determination, therefore the Department proposes the following language to amend Section 3:

“SECTION 3. Provided that of the federal fund appropriation for the department of human services, there is appropriated federal temporary assistance for needy families funds in the sum of \$44,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009-2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010-2011 to provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, and for associated eligibility determination costs.”

The Legislature’s authorization of the spending of federal TANF funds as directed in this bill will enable DHS to provide clients with monthly benefits to assist them with such essentials as food, shelter, and child care, as well as employment support and work-training and dependency diversion and poverty prevention.

The programs supported by these TANF funds, many through our private non-profit agency partners, are designed to help those with work challenges to find and maintain employment to promote self-reliance, responsibility, and family stability.

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

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER  
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
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INPEACE- Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture

TESTIMONY

SB1666

Friday, February 27, 2009 @ 9:00 am in Room 211

before the

Senate Ways and Means Committee

by

Kanoe Nāone, Ph.D. Chief Executive Officer

INPEACE SUPPORTS this bill and urges the committee to pass this bill that: 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.

INPEACE is a non-profit status, public service organization that annually serves more than 2,400 children, parents and community members through its early childhood and workforce development programs on 5 different islands. The work of INPEACE over the past fourteen years has been extensive and progressive in Hawai'i, particularly within communities that would not otherwise have access to the services it provides and sees the critical role early childhood plays in the economic well-being of communities especially those in areas where poverty is prevalent.

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 2010-1011 to the child care development fund.

Since 1996, TANF funds have been a critical part of the safety net for Hawaii's families. In these difficult economic times TANF funds are critical to early education in our state. At this point in 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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.