



Malama O Kamali'i Makamae

---

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chairperson  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice-Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: D. Keala Naluai, President  
Malama O Kamali'i Makamae  
PO Box 4982  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009 @ 1:45 pm. in Room 016

SUPPORT: SENATE BILL 801, "Relating to Children." (Pilot Project)

We support this Senate Bill 801 and respectfully ask that your committee consider passing this measure in behalf of the young children in our communities, who are suffering. There are too many "wait-listed" and "hidden" children needing emergency placement care in a safe environment, while their parents, relatives, and/or guardians require taking care of their own tribulations (i.e. alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco addictions, abusiveness, unemployment, homelessness, mental, emotional, economical, and social instabilities).

We request that the State help us select and lease suitable lands, at a reduced rate to the department of human services, in collaboration with those servicing this project to assist endangered and disadvantaged children younger than thirteen years of age who are homeless or from low-income households. . . ." and "newborns abandoned in. . ." Hawai'i, through direct services and programs, which these facilities will offer to malama i na kamali'i makamae o Hawai'i, (protect & honor Hawai'i's precious children), to develop and grow physically, intellectually, and socially confident in becoming self-reliant and productive individuals, whereby they may thrive and gain the respect and honor they deserve, as future leaders and community members of the Aloha State.

This pilot project will be initiated by serving Windward O'ahu's under served homeless, endangered, and low income children from Haleiwa to Waimanalo, who are in crisis, providing health and nutritional care; social, educational, and cultural services. This and other facilities will become the long-awaited safe haven, learning, and nurturing care centers we need in our communities today.

"We have the tremendous responsibility to change the course of the lives of our young children." We face the challenges in our society of the breakdown of the family from socio-

economic decline, drugs/alcohol abuse, promiscuity, violence and even suicide at younger ages. Children store in their sub-consciousness memory ALL that they see and hear which can play a major part in shaping their behavior and character, as they get older. We must help to develop excellence of character, to bring out the goodness from within these children. They need our help to change their living environment and learning experiences for the better.

Priority will be given to na kamali'i whose lives are endangered, orphaned, abandoned, fostered, homeless, physically abused and so forth. Research shows that these are categorical indicators to emotional and mental scarring, which adversely affect their growth and development, behavioral and learning abilities. These care facilities will provide a wellness refuge for them to begin to feel safe and begin a healthy healing journey.

The findings from the final report of the Joint House-Senate Task Force on Ice and Drug Abatement (JHSTFIDA) 2004 missed this important link, while recommending, mandating and appropriating various help services and programs for funding to the youth and adults in combating their debilitating addictions. However, the Task Force did acknowledge in their report entitled, "Protecting Children Exposed to Ice in the Home":

- (a) The inadequacy of resources to respond to the needs of the families and children;
- (b) The lack of coordination between governments to address the substance issues;
- (c) The lack of discussion to implement a plan to resolve the escalating number of child abuse cases resulting from ice abuse in the home; and
- (d) The effects of ice abuse that cost Hawaii's taxpayers between seventy million and eighty four million dollars annually.

The JHSTFIDA, also, stated that they recognized the need "to develop a drug endangered child protection program."

The need is NOW and the time is FAR SPENT in developing these care facilities for those children's desperate reach for our hands to help them stay alive.

Along with the existing programs in place to help our teenagers and adults in substance abuse treatments that have been continually funded, please remember – as you consider this SB 801 and the positive impact it will have in all our communities – yours and mine, through our community-driven initiatives to helping our people heal and prosper. Unfortunately, our young children are short on the end of emergency safe places to go, when their health and well-being are too often at-risk or in imminent danger.

Please remember and consider all the little ones in your own communities and neighborhoods, who need our help to be alive, safe, healthy, and happy. They include those who are abandoned, abused, neglected, homeless and orphaned, who are without any doubt in my mind out there somewhere, crying themselves to sleep—scared, hungry, hurt, tired,

injured, cold, and wet, while praying for a safe place to go with a pure child-like faith and hope that someone will someday come to rescue them... before it's too late!

As you and I walk around our neighborhoods, with all that we see with our eyes, hear with our ears and feel with our hearts, it would be unforgiving if any of us would turn away from those many children's tender and faint hearts, who silently through their fears, are pleading to us the poignant words of the song "The Prayer," "... lead us to a place, guide us with your grace, to a place where we'll be safe."

We respectfully propose that through your passing of this Senate Bill 801, you will be helping us answer their tiny little prayers by providing appropriate lands to develop these safe places throughout our State, thereby we will be able to rescue them in a timely manner.

We extend our gratitude to past Legislative committees (Senate and House) and the Keiki Caucus group, in recognizing those needs of young children in Hawai'i and supporting our efforts to protect and honor their precious lives. We welcome the communities throughout the State to join hands with us in becoming "the villages" raising healthy, emotionally-stable, well-educated, socially respected, energetic, and competent leaders of tomorrow. The forty-fourth President of the United States of America is Hawai'i's proof to the world that we can do it!

Mahalo Ke Akua! Thank you very much for your time and this opportunity to testify.

To: Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chairperson  
Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009  
Time: 8:21 AM

Jadine Yonemitsu  
46-255 Kahuhipa Street PH3  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

RE: Support Senate Bill 801, Relating to Children

Dear Chairperson Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Vice Chairperson Les Ihara Jr. and Members of the Committee:

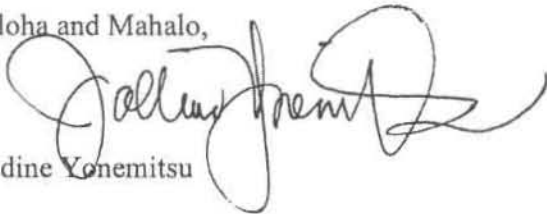
This is a letter of support for Senate Bill 801. It is imperative that Senate Bill 801 be passed for the purposes in which it states. I have personally witnessed families destroyed and broken because a lack of services to prevent domestic and drug abuse, child neglect and worse.

I was raised in a physical and emotional abusive environment. If Senate Bill 801 was passed during my traumatic experiences, I might have been protected from preventive detriment. Today, I am alive and able to testify in support of Senate Bill 801 for those who may need help desperately in our communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support to Bill 801.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Jadine Yonemitsu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jadine Yonemitsu', written over the printed name.

Honorable Senators Suzanne Chun-Oakland and Les Ihara, Jr.

I support Senate Bill 801 Relating to Children – At-Risk

I have been a teacher for the State of Hawaii for the last 39 years. I have seen. I have heard. I felt. I feel for these youngsters in need. They are all special.

It is sad people do not cherish their own children given to them as a precious gift from the man above.

May we all support this bill in hopes we can all make a difference in these Keiki's (children's) lives.

So many caring people in Hawaii put out their hearts and energies for these youngsters but they do not have the funds to provide for this cause. Please assist the agencies who are there at your door step asking for Kokuu(Help).

May KeAkua bless you in your support for our children of Hawaii.

Me ke aloha pume hana,

Nancy Lani Mewlung (Kauai) Honda

Doctoral Candidate in Educational Leadership

FAX-1-800-587-6657 OR (808) 587-6657

TESTIMONY - THE SENATE - 25<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2009 2/12/09 1:45 PM  
CONF. RM. 016 STATE CAPITOL 415 BERETANIA ST  
HONOLULU, HI TRUCE END

NAME: MARGARET LEVY-DORANDS, CNA

POSITION: BOARD MEMBER

ORGANIZATION: STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

DATE: 2/12/09

TIME: 1:45 PM

COMMITTEE DIRECTION: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
SEN. CHUN OAKLAND, SEN. IHARA

- 1. MEASURE # SB 1210 - I AM AGAIN THIS MEASURE
- 2 " " SB 1189 - "
- 3 " " SB 915 - "
- 4 " " SB 918 - "
- 5 " " SB 1330 - "
- 6 " " SB 921 - "
- 7 " " SB 1177 - "
- 8 " " SB 913 - "
- 9 " " SB 916 - "

I AM FOR THE FOLLOWING MEASURES

- 10. MEASURE # SB 1016 - I AM FOR THIS MEASURE
- 11. " " SB 133 - "
- 12. " " SB 801 - "
- 13. " " SB 1006 - "
- 14. " " SB 1014 - "

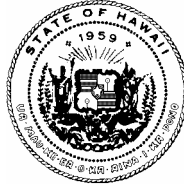
THANK YOU

MARGARET LEVY-DORANDS, CNA  
PO BOX 1664

PAHOA, HI 96778

(808) 936-9365

e-mail: tropicalbelt@yahoo.com



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

February 12, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 801 - RELATING TO CHILDREN

Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2009, 1:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot project to develop and operate facilities statewide emergency care, hanai ohana care, and specialized learning facilities for endangered and disadvantaged children. The bill would also require the State to lease land at a reduced rate to the department of human services for these purposes.

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) respectfully opposes this bill. Given the current fiscal difficulties, it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time.

While there is no specific funding request in this bill, developing and implementing a pilot project, developing and facilitating training and leasing of land, cannot be achieved without expending considerable general funds.

Many areas are unclear in this bill, as indicated in the following:

1. Is the proposed program only for children who are on their own or for children who are living with families who are homeless?

2. It appears that services are intended to include long-term group care for infants and young children, which is not aligned with research and best practice in ensuring permanency and well-being outcomes for infants and young children.

3. The pilot proposes to focus on "children whose physical, emotional, mental, social or educational well-being is in imminent danger" [page 1, lines 14-17] but contains no definition or guidelines for determining imminent danger. If "imminent harm" is defined in accordance with the Child Protective Act, Chapter 587, Hawaii Revised Statutes, then intervention by the Police, the Department's Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the Family Court will be necessary. For children subjected to imminent harm, protective custody by the police is the most appropriate means of ensuring their immediate safety as is done under current law.

4. The Department also has concerns with this bill in reference to the educational services to be provided to homeless and at-risk children from low-income families described in lines 5 and 6 on page 2. Currently, educational services to children 5-13 years of age, including homeless and at-risk children from low-income families, are provided by the Department of Education



(DOE). It is not clear if the services to be provided by this project are intended to supplant or replace such DOE services that are already being provided and would duplicate already available public education services.

Also, the DOE and DHS are already funding the A+ program in almost all public elementary schools (K-5, and in some cases also 6th grade), including Charter Schools, during the non-academic after-school hours of the elementary school day.

5. DHS already spends nearly \$20 million on positive youth development programs that provide services to Hawaii's children, including homeless and at-risk children from low-income families, with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Federal funds. For example, Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) Program is a non-school hour program in 13 DOE middle/intermediate schools.

With the support of the Legislature, there has been a dramatic expansion in community-based preventive, family strengthening and family supportive services that DHS has made available through our sister State and County agencies and community partners to assist parents and support families and to enhance their capacity to care for their children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

P.O. Box 1169  
Waianae, Hi 96792  
E-mail [kananikb2@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kananikb2@hawaii.rr.com)

Phone (808) 426-4647  
Cellular: (808) 783-9302  
Fax (808) 696-1654

*Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan*

---

Date: February 9, 2009

To: Sen. S. Chun-Oakland, Chair Human Services  
Sen. L. Ihara Jr., Vice Chair Human Services

Hearing: February 12, 2009 Thursday 1:45pm Rm 016

**Measure: SB801: RELATING TO CHILDREN**

Aloha Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara and committee members:

My name is Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan. I'm a resident of Waianae, a kupuna and a Kanaka Maoli. Most importantly I'm an advocate for children and family preservation.

I ask for you **NOT TO SUPPORT** bill SB801. This measure appears to be only in the best interest of a single agency Malama O Kamali'i Makamae. Moreover, the intent of this bill is to create a "3-year pilot project" in which Hawaiian and "poor" children are the target. Is this really effective, efficient and appropriate for the culture and of the current economic condition of our state? NO! Furthermore, in reviewing the measure it identifies issues that are already being addressed through current Child Welfare policies. In addition the bill clearly identifies that this one single agency is NOT experienced or has the capabilities to serve this population. And, the bill singles out "homeless" children rather than families. We have homeless programs that include children for educational needs and the family is the center of services, addressing barriers to preventing them from obtaining and securing housing is identified.

If you pass this measure it will send a negative message to the public and to the non-profit organizations that currently serve this target population. By law comparing the services these agencies provide with the services of Malama O Kamali'i Makamae. This measure will assume that the agency is fully supported by the state of Hawaii as the organization to serve Hawaiian and poor children who are homeless.

Again I ask that you **NOT SUPPORT** this bill as it is **NOT THE RIGHT** thing to do for the children, the families, the other providers and the public. Should you have any questions or need additional information feel free to call me at 426-4647, 682-4673 or 783-9302.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kaaiawahia Bulawan

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**Thursday, February 12, 2009  
1:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 801  
RELATING TO CHILDREN**

Senate Bill (SB) 801 establishes a pilot project to develop and operate statewide emergency care, hanai ohana care, and specialized learning facilities for endangered and disadvantaged children. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) respectfully defer this section of SB 801 (SECTION 1) to the Department of Human Services (DHS). Additionally, SB 801 requires the State to lease land at a reduced rate to the DHS of these purposes. The Department finds this section of the bill (SECTION 2) unnecessary, as statutory and policy provisions are already in place to accomplish this objective.

Section 171-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides the Governor, with the prior approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board), to set aside public lands to any department or agency of the State, the city and county, county, or other political subdivisions of the State for public use or purpose. Therefore, DHS need only to submit a letter to the Board requesting the set aside of lands for the purpose to develop and operate statewide emergency care, hanai ohana care, and specialized learning facilities for endangered and disadvantaged children. The Board can then recommend to the Governor an executive order to the set aside state lands for this DHS pilot project.

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS