

Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services

C/O 1117 Kaili Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Written Testimony:

From: Dominic Inocelda, President and the Members of the Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services.

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair and Members of the Committee on Human Services, House of Representatives

RE: **SB 905 SD2 OCS Transfer to the Department of Human Services**

The Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services requests your committee's support to move the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. Although we had opposed this move in the past we believe that the Department of Human Service's focus on employment and economic self sufficiency is in line with the employment and job creation programs of the Office of Community Services. With strong possibilities of continued OCS program funding reductions in the DLIR we see a more hopeful future for immigrant employment programs in the Department of Human Services.

We also request that the amendment to SB 905 to separate the job creation and employment core programs for immigrants and low income participants be rescinded and that these programs also transfer with all the other Office of Community Service programs to DHS. We feel that a separation of these specific programs will result in the eventual loss of immigrant employment programs within the Department of Labor due to continued funding reductions and the loss of a strong administrative support by the Office of Community Services.

In summary, the Inter-Agency Council supports the proposed move of the Office of Community Services to the DHS and also request that all current programs move with the office to DHS.

LATE
Testimony

To: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Representative John M. Mizuno Chair, Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair and Human Service Committee Members.

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB905, SD2, Relating to Office of Community Services Hearing: Monday March 23rd, 2009 at 8:30 am Rm 329

From: Tin Myaing Thein, Ph.D., Executive Director, Pacific Gateway Center

Pacific Gateway Center, formerly known as the Immigrant Center has been serving the community over 35 years. We are an exempt 501 (c) 3 organization providing services in social services, employment training, and placement, economic development and community building. Our organization was a part of the community initiative in the formulation of the Office of Community Services (OCS) 1984 and presently has several contracts with OCS.

We are also a member of the InterAgency Council (IAC) formed to coordinate and collaborate on issues and provision of services to the immigrant population. The IAC has discussed the bill and PGC is in support of the move of the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. PGC is in agreement that all programs of OCS move to DHS.

PGC is also in agreement with the concerns are noted as per the testimony of the IAC. In particular, that OCS will be allowed to maintain their independence and continue their timely method of payments to service providers. This is a critical issue as DHS has not had a good history of payments on time in the past. However, in recent years, we understand that the problem has improved and with the independence of OCS, timely payments should not be an issue.

The concerns of job placement and job creation as being part of the mission of DHS were also addressed by DHS. In speaking to the staffers at DHS, IAC has learned that in recent years, priority has been given to placing clients in job training, job placements and job creation, thus more in line with the mission of OCS. This information is of great importance to PGC.

We had also heard that DHS is not friendly to immigrants and at one time, was cited by the Federal government for their treatment of immigrants. However, PGC has learned that since then, DHS has changed in their treatment of this population and in fact hired several foreign-born personnel in an effort to outreach to this population. Thus we support the move of OCS to DHS.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 851-7010 or at email: myaing@pacificgatewaycenter.org. Thank you for this opportunity.

Aloha, Tin Myaing Thein
Pacific Gateway Center

LATE
Testimony



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT, WITH AMENDMENTS, TO SB 905 SD 2 HD 1

House Committee on Human Services
Mar. 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To: Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair and Honorable Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Rep. Joe Bertram, III; Rep. Mele Carroll,
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Charlene Cuaresma, MPH, President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity

Measure Title:

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Title:

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Description:

Transfers the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. Maintains employment core services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants, and refugees with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. (SB905 HD1)

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Testimony**

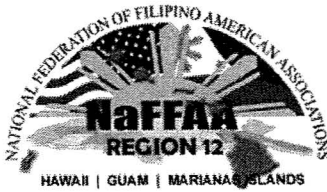
My name is Charlene Cuaresma. As president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, I want to express appreciation to you for hearing this important bill. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of this bill, but with the recommended amendment to please delete HD 1 and instead use the version of SB 905 SD 2, which reflects the intent of most immigrant service providers and our Filipino community. As indicated in the Senator Donna Mercado Kim's committee report, we also strongly believe that the role and "function of the Office of Community Services more readily correspond to the mission, objectives, and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services than to those of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This measure will improve the Department of Human Services' coordination and delivery of services for programs to assist the disadvantaged, poor, refugees, immigrants, and homeless persons. The Department of Human Services will also be able to assist with employment and job-training, child care, and general assistance."

Thank you for considering this very important distinction between the SD 2 and HD 1. Many community advocates for immigrant services support the recommended amendment to adopt SB 905 SD 2. Your vote to enact this version is important to sustaining services to Hawai'i's vulnerable immigrant groups, who in turn, have consistently contributed to our labor force needs throughout our State's history.

Respectfully,

Charlene Cuaresma, MPH
President, Filipino Coalition For Solidarity



LATE Testimony

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS TO SB 905 SD 2 HD 1

House Committee on Human Services

Mar. 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To: Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair; Honorable Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Rep. Joe Bertram, III;
Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro,
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Ron Menor, Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Title: OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Description: Transfers the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. Maintains employment core services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants, and refugees with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. (SB905-HD1)

My name is Ron Menor, and I serve as NaFFAA Region XII Chair. I strongly support this bill with the amendment to revert back to the version of SB 905 SD 2. It is important to our immigrant communities that the Office of Community Services be transferred to the Department of Human Services. We agree with the assessment of the Department of Human Services, which finds that the Office of Community Services more readily correspond to the mission, objectives, and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services than to those of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This measure will improve the Department of Human Services' coordination and delivery of services for programs to assist the disadvantaged, poor, refugees, immigrants, and homeless persons. The Department of Human Services will also be able to assist with employment and job-training, child care, and general assistance. Thank you for your consideration of our community recommendation to support SB 905 SD 2.

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, we support the significant contributions of Filipino nurses in America's health care systems. NaFFAA Region XII is an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

Sincerely,

Ron Menor, Chair, NaFFAA Region XII

c/o 728 Nunu Street · Kailua · Hawai'i 96734 · Phone/Fax: (808) 254-4522 · E-Mail: hnaffaa2006@yahoo.com
Ron Menor, Chair · Amy Agbayani, Vice Chair · Michael Dahilig, Vice Chair · Rouel Velasco Youth Leader
Susan Maglaya, Treasurer · Agnes Malate, Asst. Treasurer · Charlene Cuaresma, Secretary

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 * Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS TO SB 905 SD 2 HD 1

House Committee on Human Services

Mar. 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To: Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair
Honorable Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Rep. Joe Bertram, III; Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League

Measure Title:

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Title:

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Description:

Transfers the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. Maintains employment core services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants, and refugees with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. (SB905 HD1)

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill. I respectfully recommend that SB 905 HD 1 be amended by deleting HD 1, and reinserting the provisions of SB 905 SD 2. This version of SD 2 is widely supported by most human service providers and our Filipino community, because the primary functions of the Office of Community Services more readily correspond to the mission, objectives, and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services than to those of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This measure will improve the Department of Human Services' coordination and delivery of services for programs to assist the disadvantaged, poor, refugees, immigrants, and homeless persons. The Department of Human Services will also be able to assist with employment and job-training, child care, and general assistance. Thank you for the chance to provide support for this bill. Your help in its passage is greatly appreciated.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg
President, Filipino American Citizens League

LATE
testimony



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

Unit Organizations

Alliance of Residential
Carehome Administrators
Aloha Saguibsib Cultural
Foundation, Inc.
Annac ti Bado iti Hawaii
Annac ti Batac
Annac ti Caoayan 2002
Annak ti Kailokuan iti
America
Annak ti Sinait iti Hawaii
Asingan Organization of
Hawaii
Badoc-Pinili Aid
Association of Hawaii
Banna Association of
Hawaii
Bannatiran Association of
Hawaii
Batangas Association of
Hawaii
Bulacan Circle of Hawaii
Caballeros de Dimasalang
Cabugao Sons & Daughters
of Hawaii
Candonians of Hawaii
Caoayan ISAH
Cavitenians of Hawaii
Dingras Association of
Hawaii
Divine Word College
Alumni Association
FilAm Sports USA
Fil American Citizens
League
Filipino Business Women's
Club
Filipino Nurses Organization
of Hawaii
Filipino Women's Civic
Club
GUMIL Hawaii
GUMIL Oahu
Hawaii Filipino Women's
Club
Hawaii Council of Bilingual
Educators
ILAH
Ilocos Norteniens of
America
INCAT Alumni Association
of Hawaii
International Filipino
Society of Hawaii
Kalayaan Phil.-Hi. Int.
La Union Circle of
Hawaii
Lingayen Gulf Club of
Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS TO SB 905 SD 2 HD 1

House Committee on Human Services

Mar. 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329

To:

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair

Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair

Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Della Au Belatti,

Rep. Joe Bertram, III; Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Scott Y.

Nishimoto, Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Rep. Ryan I. Yamane,

Rep. Gene Ward

From:

Cirvalina Longboy, President

Oahu Filipino Community Council

Measure Title:

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

My name is Cirvalina Longboy, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill, in order to support the administrative move of the Office of Community Service to the Dept. of Human Service. Please note that the Filipino community respectfully requests that you consider amending SB 905 by replacing HD 1 with SD 2. We concur with the Dept. of Human Service's justification for this move out of the Dept. of Labor.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill, and for the opportunity to provide our testimony. We humbly ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Cirvalina Longboy, President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

Unit Organizations

Magsingal Association of
Hawaii
Narvacan/San Antonio Club of
Hawaii
Nueva Vizcaya Association of
Hawaii
Pasuquinos Association of
Hawaii
Philippine Cultural Foundation
Philippine Nurses
Association of Hawaii
Piddig Association of Hawaii
Sanchez Mira Association of
Hawaii
San Manuel Pangasinan
Association of Hawaii
San Nicolaneos USA
San Nicolas Goodwill
Foundation
San Nicolas Teachers of
Hawaii
Santa Lucia Association of
Hawaii
Sarrat Association of Hawaii
Sarrat International Inc.
Sinait Nt. High School Alumni
of Hawaii
Solsona of Hawaii
Tarlac Mutual Club of Hawaii
TCP
Kalihi Ballroom, Inc.
Sadiri ti San Nicolas iti Hawaii
Samar Leyte Association of
Hawaii
Sampaguita/Sunflower Club of
Hawaii
San Juan Association of
Hawaii
San Nicolas Nat. High
Santa Marians of Hawaii
School Alumni
Santa Nicolas Nat. High
School Bingao Annex
Tagalog Association of Oahu
United Bacarreños of Hawaii
United Group of Home
Operators
United Pangasinan of Hawaii
United Urdaneta Club of
Hawaii
United Vintarinians of Hawaii
Vigan Association of Hawaii



UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII

P.O. BOX 498, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0498

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS TO SB 905 SD 2 HD 1

House Committee on Human Services

Mar. 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To: Honorable Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair; Honorable Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair
Honorable Committee Members: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Rep. Joe Bertram, III;
Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro,
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Rep. Gene Ward

From: Eddie Agas, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Title: OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Description: Transfers the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. Maintains employment core services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants, and refugees with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. (SB905 HD1)

My name is Eddie Agas. I am the president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). I submit this testimony to strongly support this bill, with amendments, on behalf of UFCH, an umbrella organization with member organizations from six islands. UFCH membership is comprised of nearly 5,000 individual members.

We are in agreement with the majority of advocates and providers of immigrant services that SB 905 SD 2 HD 1 be amended by dropping HD 1 and adopting SB 905 SD 2. SB 905 SD 2 states: "the Department of Human Services finds that the Office of Community Services more readily correspond to the mission, objectives, and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services than to those of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This measure will improve the Department of Human Services' coordination and delivery of services for programs to assist the disadvantaged, poor, refugees, immigrants, and homeless persons. The Department of Human Services will also be able to assist with employment and job-training, child care, and general assistance."

We are deeply grateful for our State's services to all immigrant groups. Filipinos comprise 61 percent of Hawai'i's immigrant population, which is larger than all immigrant groups combined. We support the administrative move of the Office of Community Services out of the Dept. of Labor, and into the Dept. of Human Services. With this help, Hawai'i's hard working immigrants have been able to contribute to our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony. Please vote yes to the bill's proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Agas, President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

LATE
Testimony

Filipinos for Affirmative Action

3432 B-1 Kalihi Street Honolulu, HI 96819

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS TO SB 905 SD 2 HD 1

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Testimony

House Committee on Human Services

Mar. 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 329

To:

Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair & Rep. Tom Brower, Vice-Chair

House Committee on Human Services Members: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Rep. Joe Bertram, III;
Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Rep. Ryan I.
Yamane, Rep. Gene Ward

From:

Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair, Filipinos For Affirmative Action

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report Title: OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Description: Transfers the Office of Community Services from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to the Department of Human Services. Maintains employment core services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants, and refugees with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. (SB905 HD1)

My name is Amy Agbayani. As Co-Chair of Filipinos for Affirmative Action, a proponent of civil rights, I submit strong support for SD 905 SD 2 HD 1 with this important recommended amendment. *Please consider deleting HD 1 and replacing it with SD 2.*

The majority of members of the Inter-Agency Council for Immigrants and Refugees join community advocates in recommending that the administrative move of the Office of Community Services out of the Dept. of Labor and into the Dept. of Human Services is in the best interest of the immigrant groups they serve. The reasons are clearly laid out in the committee report of SB 905 SD 2 by Sen. Donna Mercado's Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

“. . . the primary functions of the Office of Community Services more readily correspond to the mission, objectives, and responsibilities of the Department of Human Services than to those of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. This measure will improve the Department of Human Services' coordination and delivery of services for programs to assist the disadvantaged, poor, refugees, immigrants, and homeless persons. The Department of Human Services will also be able to assist with employment and job-training, child care, and general assistance.”

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our community leaders and immigrant service providers. Your support of this amendment is of immense importance to Hawai'i's immigrant groups, who have been integral to the economic success of our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Agbayani, Co-Chair, Filipinos For Affirmative Action

Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center

(Formerly known as Na Loio)

Serving Hawaii's Immigrant Families and Children

To : Committee on Labor and Public Employment
From : Robin H. Kobayashi, Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center
RE : SB 905
Date : March 23, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center ("the Justice Center") supports SB 905 SD 2, which transfers the Office of Community Services ("DHS") to the Department of Human Services ("DHS").

The Justice Center is a tax-exempt, non-profit agency that provides legal and social services to indigent immigrants in Hawaii. The Justice Center is also a member of the Inter-Agency Council, which is composed of eleven other government and community-based organizations.

The Justice Center believes OSC should be transferred in its entirety for the following reasons:

- The mission of OCS is better aligned with DHS than the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations ("DLIR");
- The transfer of OSC to DHS will strengthen the delivery of services to the needy and indigent;
- Both departments, DHS and DLIR, agree that OCS belongs with DHS; and
- Programs supported by OCS will be better protected under DHS than with DLIR.

The Justice Center also believes that the employment-based services of OSC should not be separated from and transferred with other programs of OCS for the following reasons:

- Several community-based agencies has more than one contract with OCS; fragmentation of OCS would result in fragmentation of these contracts, disparate oversight of these contracts, and confusion over enforcement of these contracts;

- Community-based agencies currently provide holistic services for their clients through employment- and social services-based contracts with OCS. Fragmentation would adversely affect these holistic services; and
- Fragmentation would actually increase the cost of keeping OCS as a single agency; separating OCS into two pieces will create overhead expenses for an additional agency.

Please transfer OSC in its entirety to DHS by passing SB 905 SD 2.



To: The Honorable John Mizuno, Chair
The Honorable Tom Brower, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

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

Date: March 23, 2009

Re: **Comments Concerning S.B. 905 SD2, HD1 –
Relating to the Office of Community Services**

**LATE
Testimony**

We applaud the legislature for its leadership in the area of supporting human services. The Office of Community Services (OCS) has demonstrated leadership in its innovative programs to support immigrant populations to attain self-sufficiency. We believe that integrating OCS within the Department of Human Services will provide one-stop ease of access for people seeking those services while helping realize efficiencies in social services delivery.

However, the Committee on Labor and Public Employment made changes by stipulating that employment core services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants, and refugees shall remain a function of DLIR. Although these programs are for the purposes of employment, the nature of the populations serviced, low-income individuals, immigrants and refugees, require the skills of social service activities as part of the program in order to ensure its success.

For this reason, **we can only support this measure if the component of core employment services and employment creation programs for low-income individuals, immigrants and refugees remain functions of OCS after the transfer.**

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.

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