

Board of Directors

President: Wanda Villareal, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Vice-President: Melissa Gibo, Catholic Charities Hawaii

Secretary: Sandee Yoro, SECOH

Treasurer: Jay Raymundo, Aloha Habilitation Services, Inc.

Lani Bair, The Institute for Family Enrichment

Charles Braden, Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii

Anastasia Keller-Collins, Easter Seals Hawai'i

Vicki Linter, The Arc of Hilo

Honorary: Ellen Ching, Easter Seals Hawaii

Charter Member Agencies

- Goodwill Industries of Hawai'i, Inc.
- Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
- SECOH
- The Arc in Hawaii

Sustaining Member Agencies

- Easter Seals Hawaii
- Mastercare, Inc.

Basic Member Agencies

- Aloha Habilitation Services, Inc.
- CARE Hawaii
- Catholic Charities Hawaii
- Full Life Corporation
- Heaven's Helpers, Inc.
- Ka Lima O' Maui
- Molokai Occupational Center
- Nursefinders of Hawai'i
- Preferred Home & Community Based Services
- Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii
- The Arc of Hilo
- The Arc of Kona
- The Institute for Family Enrichment
- Winners at Work, Inc., dba Abilities Unlimited



January 26, 2010

To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno
Chair of the House Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Tom Brower
Vice Chair of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Wanda Villareal, President
Hawaii Waiver Providers Association

Date: January 26, 2010

Re: **Testimony in Support of H.B. 2255 – Relating to Criminal History Record Checks**

The Hawaii Waiver Providers Association (HWPAA) is a statewide association comprised of 20 Developmental Disabilities Medicaid Waiver Service Providers affording leadership to collaborate and shape the service system to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. Founded in 2001, HWPAA's mission is to provide the necessary resources to develop, strengthen, and attain the highest standards of excellence for the developmental disabilities community.

The Hawaii Waiver Providers Association ("HWPAA") submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 2255.

HWPAA submits this testimony in support of House Bill 2255. Our member agencies provide services to individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Services. The Department of Human Services is now requiring providers to obtain criminal history record checks which involve fingerprinting on hire and one year later.

The safety of the participants we serve is at the forefront our services. This bill will reduce the requirement from 2 fingerprint-based criminal history record checks to one fingerprint-based check. The provision of one fingerprint-based check will serve the intent of Section 346-97, H.R.S. to insure the reputable and responsible character of service providers and their employees who serve children and vulnerable adults in the Home and Community Based Services program. This bill will also serve to eliminate the duplicative cost of the additional fingerprint-based check. In addition, we are also required to complete protective services registry checks on hire, annually, then bi-annually, which already proves there is a continuous effort to ensure the safety of the people we serve.

Since services were reduced in 2009, providers felt the funding reduction effects resulting in our need to cut back our staff who provide direct service hours in our programs, and experienced employees were laid off in order to reduce expenses. Unnecessary expenses, like the second round of fingerprinting, will result in more financial hardships.

We humbly ask for your support of House Bill 2255

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

From: Wanda Villareal, Director of Developmental Services
Laura Robertson, President/CEO
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc.

Date: January 26, 2010

Re: **Testimony in support of H.B. 2255 – Relating to Criminal History Record Checks**

Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc. ("Goodwill") submits this testimony in support of House Bill 2255. Goodwill provides services to individuals receiving Home and Community-Based Services ("Waiver"). The Department of Human Services is now requiring providers to obtain criminal history record checks which involve fingerprinting upon hire and one year later.

The safety of the participants we serve is at the forefront of Goodwill's services. This bill will reduce the requirement from two fingerprint-based criminal history record checks to one fingerprint-based check. The provision of one fingerprint-based check will serve the intent of Section 346-97, H.R.S. to insure the reputable and responsible character of service providers and their employees who serve children and vulnerable adults in the Home and Community Based Services program. This bill will also serve to eliminate the duplicative cost of the additional fingerprint-based check. This year it would cost our agency an additional \$3,000 to comply with the new standard. In addition, we are also required to complete protective services registry checks upon hire, annually, then bi-annually, which already demonstrates there is a continuous effort to ensure the safety of the people we serve.

Since services were reduced in 2009, due to the State Budget reductions, Goodwill has had to respond by reducing our staff who provide direct service hours in our Waiver programs, resulting in experienced employees being laid off in order to reduce expenses. Additional expenses, like the requirement for a second round of fingerprinting, will result in continued financial hardships on our organization at a time when every dollar spent needs to be targeted towards direct client services.

Goodwill is in strong support of House Bill 2255.

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

MAILING ADDRESS

P. O. Box 127
Kealahou, HI 96750

KEALAKEKUA

81-1065 Konawaena
School Road
Kealahou, HI, 96750
808-323-2626
Mo - Fr, 8:00A - 3:00P

HONOKAA

45-539 Plumeria Street
Building 3, Room 2
Honokaa, HI 96727
808-775-1090
Mo & Th: 8:00A - 5:00P

Fax: 808-323-9444
TDD: 808-323-2889

Federal ID
99-0108896

January 26, 2010

House Committee on Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Thursday, January 28, 2010, 8:30 a.m., Room 329, State Capitol

RE: HB 2255: RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS.

Reduces the number of required annual fingerprint-based criminal history record checks from two to one.

Good Morning Representative Mizuno and Brower and members of the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Gretchen Lawson, I am the President/CEO of Arc of Kona; a private, charitable, not-for-profit organization on the big island. The arc of Kona supports people living with disabilities, a vulnerable population. HB 2255 removes the mandate for expensive criminal history checks to be performed for all new and existing employees more than once as performing this check twice only serves to double the costs. When costs go into insuring those who work directly with this population are free from crimes against persons, it is certainly understandable to protect our most vulnerable. But when the costs are unnecessary it only serves to reduce the amount of money needed to pay for the actual delivery of that service.

Thank you for understanding the logic of only doing the criminal history check once and passing this bill out of committee with a positive recommendation.

Sincerely,



Gretchen Lawson
President/CEO



carf
Commission on Accreditation
of Rehabilitation Facilities

The
Arc of Kona

www.arcofkona.org

"Expanding the Possibilities"
"Ho'o Nui Ka Hiki"

From: Lani Bair [lbair@tiffe.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 4:23 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: HB 2255 Template Relating to Criminal Record History Checks (1).doc

January 26, 2010

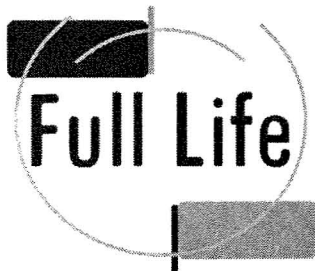
The Institute For Family Enrichment
Testimony by Mililani Bair, DD/MR Program Supervisor

House Human Services Committee
January 28, 2010, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

HB 2255 RELATING TO CRIMINAL RECORD HISTORY CHECKS

Position: Strong support of HB 2255

Testimony: The Institute For Family Enrichment is in strong support of HB 2255. This bill will reduce the requirement from 2 fingerprint-based criminal history record checks to one fingerprint-based check. The provision of one fingerprint-based check will serve the intent of Section 346-97, H.R.S. to insure the reputable and responsible character of service providers and their employees who serve children and vulnerable adults in the Home and Community Based Services program. This bill will also serve to eliminate the duplicative cost of the additional fingerprint-based check.



Mission Statement

Full Life assists in the empowerment of people with developmental disabilities, enabling them to achieve and enjoy a self-determined quality of life.

Full Life Board of Directors

**Glennon Gingo
Elizabeth Rice
Taylor Easley
Gloria Blum
Christie Crawford**

Stone Wolfsong
Executive Director

January 26, 2010

TO: Representative John Mizuno and the House Committee on Human Services

RE: House Bill 2255 Relating to Criminal History Record Checks

In 2009 we received a notification from The State of Hawaii Department of Human Services Med-QUEST Division stating that Home and Community Based Providers for Medicaid had to conduct a fingerprint criminal history check to the FBI for employees working directly with our clients AND that this check needed to be completed two years in a row AND the checks had to be done by Insights to Success.

It is my understanding that once the FBI Criminal History fingerprint check is completed, it is unnecessary to conduct another criminal history fingerprint check the next year. It is sufficient to conduct a name check in subsequent years.

This new rule seems arbitrary, especially when we are struggling with budget cuts. Additionally, specifying that we must use Insights to Success, which costs more per employee than using the County Police stations and submitting the fingerprints directly to the FBI ourselves, does not make sense. On our island the cost of paying mileage for employees to get to the ITS office is exhorbitant. It is much more cost effective for our employees to get fingerprinted at the nearest Police station and let us send the card to the FBI. For example, we have 70 Direct Support Workers and many of them would be driving over 25 miles, and some over 100 miles to get to the ITS office. At that rate, mileage alone will cost us around \$800.00 in addition to the \$4200.00 we would have to pay ITS.

Thank you for responding to the concerns of Waiver Providers in Hawai'i. I respectfully ask you to approve HB 2255.

Mahalo.

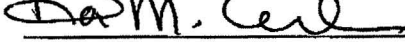
Stone Wolfsong



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

January 26, 2010

TO: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: 
Diane M. Terada, Division Administrator

HEARING: Thursday, January 28, 2010
8:30 a.m., Room 329

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of HB 2255 Relating to Criminal History Record Checks

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 60 years. **Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports HB 2255, Relating to Criminal History Record Checks.**

CCH is a licensed case management agency on the island of Hawai'i, providing case management for community care foster family home residents since 1997. In addition, CCH provides in-home care monitoring for individuals with developmental disabilities through the Home and Community Based DD/MR Medicaid Waiver program. Both of these programs are required by the Department of Human Services to obtain criminal history record checks, including fingerprinting upon hire and one year later.

CCH supports HB 2255 which will reduce the requirement from 2 fingerprint-based criminal history record checks to one fingerprint-based check. The provision of one fingerprint-based check, will serve the intent of Section 346-97, H.R.S. to insure the reputable and responsible character of service providers and their employees who serve vulnerable adults in the Home and Community Based Services program.

The safety of our clients is at the forefront of our services. In addition to Federal and State criminal history record checks, Home and Community Based Services providers are also required to complete protective services registry checks on hire, at one year after hire, then biennially. We feel that one fingerprint-based criminal history record check upon hire, along with the other background check requirements, assures that there is continuous effort to safeguard the vulnerable individuals we serve.

The State's economic situation has forced provider agencies to do more with less. CCH believes HB 2255 eliminates an unnecessary expense and does not jeopardize the safety of the vulnerable populations we serve. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2255.



CLARENCE T. C. CHING CAMPUS • 1822 Ke'eaumoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone (808)524-HOPE(4673) • www.CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org



January 26, 2010

Easter Seals Hawaii

Testimony by: Anastasia Keller-Collins, Vice President, Program Development

House Human Services Committee

January 28, 2010, 8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 329

HB 2255 RELATING TO CRIMINAL RECORD HISTORY CHECKS

Position: Strong support of HB 2255

Testimony: The Easter Seals Hawaii is in strong support of HB 2255. This bill will reduce the requirement from 2 fingerprint-based criminal history record checks to one fingerprint-based check. The provision of one fingerprint-based check will serve the intent of Section 346-97, H.R.S. to insure the reputable and responsible character of service providers and their employees who serve children and vulnerable adults in the Home and Community Based Services program. This bill will also serve to eliminate the duplicative cost of the additional fingerprint-based check.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.

DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 28, 2010

LATE
Testimony

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.B. 2255, RELATING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS

Hearing: Thursday, January 28, 2010, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 2255 is to reduce the number of required annual fingerprint-based criminal history record checks from two to one for persons providing care or having access to the elderly and disabled.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) opposes this bill. The Department believes it is necessary to retain the current requirement of annual fingerprinting for the first two consecutive years to ensure the safety of our elderly and disabled clients.

Fingerprinting is the only method by which national criminal history record results may be obtained. It is also the most reliable way to ensure the correct identity of an individual. At the national level, the volume of information is so large that the posting of criminal records may not be updated

in a timely manner. Requiring fingerprinting for the first two consecutive years of individuals having direct contact with vulnerable individuals receiving services provides a more secure safety net for the elderly and disabled. Without this requirement, a criminal conviction may not be detected because of delays in putting the information on the national databases.

Also in this bill, the addition of "fingerprint-based" to criminal history record information on line 4, and changing criminal history record name inquiry to "name-based criminal history record inquiry" appears to be inconsistent with the names for these records already statutorily established in section 846-2.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.