



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Written Testimony of
Linda L. Smith
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 308

**AGENDA 1: H.B. 2963 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE
EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Administration provides comments on House Bill 2963 which appropriates \$50 million out of the State's Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2010 and into the general fund.

While the Administration agrees with the intent of the measure, we are concerned that this bill does not ensure that the \$50 million appropriation from the Rainy Day Fund will be used to restore the majority of the furlough days that have been planned for the remainder of this school year and the 2010-2011 school year. We believe it is pertinent to specifically state in the bill that the appropriation must be used to comprehensively restore instructional days and resolve the furlough situation in its entirety.

On Jan. 8, the Governor proposed a plan to use \$50 million from the Rainy Day Fund to return students to school for 24 furlough days. Under this plan, \$50 million from the Rainy Day Fund would restore 12 furlough Fridays – five this semester and seven in the 2010-2011 school year. An additional 12 instructional days – two this semester and 10 in the next school year – would be gained by using days when teachers are paid to be in their classrooms but do not teach students.

In comparison, a joint proposal from the Hawaii State Teachers Association, Department of Education, and Board of Education would use \$35 million in general funds to restore only 7 days of instruction time for the students this semester only, without addressing any furlough days for the next school year. This proposal is inadequate and unfair to both students and their parents because it fails to solve the

furlough issue for the next school year. It is important for teachers and students to be able to focus on the lessons in the classroom, rather than being distracted by issues of how many days of class there will be this year or next year and whether they will have enough credits to graduate.

The Administration strongly recommends that the Legislature appropriate \$50 million from the Rainy Day Fund in a manner that ensures an immediate and complete solution to furloughs and return children to school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Date: 02/10/2010

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn Matayoshi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 2963 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Makes an emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the General Fund. (\$)

Department's Position: The Department of Education strongly supports any viable solutions to restore instructional days. Furloughs have focused the spotlight on our public schools and the need to make education in our state a top priority. Thus, the Department encourages the legislature to explore all funding options available. However, the policy decision of where and how funding is obtained to address furloughs should be determined by the legislature. The Department continues to meet with the Hawaii State Teachers Association to discuss solutions to restore some instructional days during this semester as well as next school year.

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2963

February 10, 2010

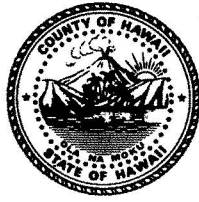
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE EMERGENCY AND
BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION

House Bill No. 2963 makes an emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the general fund to restore instructional days that have been turned into furlough days because of the State's shortfall in revenues for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. The bill states that the Governor has recommended the bill's immediate passage in accordance with Section 9 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

We strongly recommend that restoration of instructional days encompass both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 School Years. As you are aware, the Administration has made an offer to the Hawaii State Teachers Association to use the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to restore all of the instruction days for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 School Years. Negotiations on this matter are ongoing.

It should be noted that at this time, the Governor has not recommended the immediate passage of House Bill No. 2963. Article VII, Section 9 of the State Constitution, provides that only the Governor is authorized to designate appropriation bills for immediate passage.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Alan R. Parker
Executive on Aging

County of Hawai'i

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February 9, 2010

TESTIMONY TO: **House Committee on Finance**

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: **HB 2963**

**"MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE
EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR
EDUCATION"**

February 10, 2010
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2963. I am Alan Parker, Director of the Hawaii County Office of Aging. I am very much opposed to this legislation as I believe the Rainy Day fund needs to also address and preserve vital health and human service needs.

Also at issue is the use of Rainy Day funds for reduction of furlough days. The law that created the Rainy Day Fund specifically prohibits funding cost items in any collective bargaining contract.

Alan R. Parker
Executive on Aging
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: HB 2963 – MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE
EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION

February 10, 2009

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports HB 2963 which makes an emergency appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for education.

In December 2009, an agreement was reached between the Hawaii State Teachers Association, the Board of Education and the Department of Education to end furlough Fridays for the remainder of the 2009 – 2010 school year. Yet, the agreement has not been funded.

This agreement was based on the governor's suggestion that monies from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund could be used to end furlough Fridays but when presented to her, she refused to fund it.

Despite the governor's rejection, we believe that whether it is the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund or other viable source of funding, we have an agreement that needs to be completed and implemented so that our members can go back to work and the children can go back to school.

We appreciate your committee taking the initiative and leadership to end furlough Fridays through this funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Feb. 10, 2010 - Conference Room 308 – 2:00 p.m.; Agenda #1

Re: **HB 2963 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION.**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

My name is Barbara Kim Stanton, State Director of AARP Hawaii. AARP is a membership organization of people 50 and older with 150,000 members in Hawaii. We are committed to championing access to affordable, quality health care for all generations, providing the tools needed to save for retirement, and serving as a reliable information source on issues critical to Americans age 50+.

AARP is strongly opposed to HB 2963. The bill's purpose is to make an emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the General Fund for fiscal year 2009 – 2010 so that furlough days can be turned into instructional days.

While we believe that restoring instructional days is very important to our community, the Emergency and Budget Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund is not the appropriate vehicle to address the furlough funding shortfall for the following reasons.

- This remedy is likely to decimate the Rainy Day Fund as the fiscal needs for education are great.
- The law that created the Rainy Day Fund specifically prohibits funding cost items in any collective bargaining contract. Restoration of instructional days will require funds to support collective bargaining agreements.
- The Rainy Day Fund must address what it was intended to support: pressing community needs for health, safety and welfare. Shortfalls in these areas impact our community's most fragile.

In summary, the Rainy Day fund was not designed for and is too small to be more than a temporary fix for education. The Rainy Day fund must be preserved because, at times like this, it is needed to protect critical health and human service programs for our most vulnerable citizens. A prime example is the concern we have for the Kupuna Care program which is already stretched to provide home and community based services for home bound, frail elderly people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 8, 2010

TO: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
And members of the House Finance Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: HB 2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education-

Chair Oshiro and members of the House Finance Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawai'i Chapter. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of the intent of HB 2963 but OPPOSE the use of the fund only for education.**

NASW supports the intent of using a portion of the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to restore some of the instructional days during the 2009-2010 school year. **However, we believe that a fair portion of these funds is also needed to support services provided by the safety net to our most vulnerable populations.** In order for our keiki to attend and effectively utilize the educational system, they and their family members must have access to and receive services that will ameliorate abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, health and mental health issues, and homelessness.

Social workers in the public and private sectors see first hand the impact that problems in the home have on children. How can a child effectively learn when his/her family is falling apart? Children cannot learn when they are living in parks or on the beach. What can we expect of our youngsters in school when there is no childcare to enable mom and dad to work? We know that student learning is compromised when children have not eaten because food bank shelves are empty. Children can only thrive in the classroom when their basic human needs are met. Education goes hand in hand with the stability of the home environment. It is impossible to have one without the other. The Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund was established "to maintain levels of programs determined to be essential to the public health, safety, welfare, and education" (HRS 328L-3). Education is essential to the well-being of our state, but so are health, safety and social welfare programs. The rainy day fund was never intended to pit one critical service against another, but to shelter all needs from the storm.

TO : COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice chair

FROM: Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.
Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs (PABEA)

HB 2963, Making an emergency appropriation from the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund to the General Fund for education

2:00 pm Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Conference Room 308, Hawaii State Capitol

PABEA strongly OPPOSES passage of HB 2963.

for Elder Affairs has a statutory obligation to advocate on behalf of the senior citizens of Hawaii. While we advise the Executive Office on Aging, we do not speak on behalf of the Executive Office of Aging.

Even though we are in a time of economic crisis, maintaining needed human services and health services is essential to our future and to preventing expensive social problems and health consequences.

- § The Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund was established for the purpose of assuring that critical health and social services would be provided to our most vulnerable populations during times of economic crisis, such as we now experience. The purpose of this fund needs to be respected and the resources used for their intended purpose.
- § Other measures before this legislature are addressing the need for additional resources to address the education furlough issue in public education – we should not address this problem by taking away the critical resources need by our children, disabled, and frail elderly, who already are being harmed by roll-backs in programs. The needs of these populations are immediate.
- § The critical fiscal crisis being experienced by our state cannot be solved just by cutting programs, which already fall far short of meeting critical needs. We believe additional revenue is needed for the state to meet its minimum obligations to protect the life and safety of our citizens. There are many possibilities for additional revenue which have been identified, some of which are in bills before this legislative session.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.



PHOCUSED

PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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Executive Director

Alex Santiago

DATE: February 10, 2010

TO: Representative Oshiro

FROM: Alex Santiago, Executive Director
PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawai'i's Ohana, Children, UnderServed,
Elderly and Disabled)

RE: HB 2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and
Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair of the Finance Committee, I am Alex Santiago, Executive Director of PHOCUSED, a coalition of health, housing, human service agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawai'i. While PHOCUSED supports the intent of HB 2963 to end furlough Fridays, we also believe the original intent of establishing the fund was to meet basic educational needs of our children *and ensure core support for the poor and needy*. In addition, PHOCUSED believes that a discussion is needed on how best to allocate other reserve funds, and respectfully offers to be part of that discussion. There is no question leadership needs to find resources to preserve essential safety net and core services, as well as the restoration of school days.

As advocates for the Health, Housing, and Human Services sector we are also concerned about balancing the budget at an enormous social cost to our public school children, as well as our disabled citizens, the frail elderly, families who are a heartbeat away from homelessness, victims of domestic abuse, infants and toddlers who need special attention at the start of their lives, and others among us who are particularly vulnerable at a time of fiscal restraint. Recent surveys have indicated that the needs of our most vulnerable residents have risen alarmingly, while services to address their needs continue to be cut by the State.

PHOCUSED remains united to protect those with the greatest need and urges that services not be pitted against one another in your efforts to balance an out-of-sync system. We know the hard question is: where are funds to do what is pono going to come from? We don't have the answers, and we do support looking at all revenue options, with a careful analysis of consequences both intentional and unintentional, as you consider the opportunities.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns with you, and offer to be a resource to you in future deliberations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

FROM: *Stella M.Q. Wong*
Stella M.Q. Wong
Vice President - Programs

Date: Feb. 10, 2010 - Conference Room 308 – 2:00 p.m.; Agenda #1

Re: **HB 2963 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION.**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

We respectfully submit **our opposition to HB 2963** to allocate the “Rainy Day” Fund. While we believe that restoring instructional days is very important to our community, the Emergency and Budget Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund is not the appropriate vehicle to address the furlough funding shortfall for the following reasons.

This remedy is likely to decimate the Rainy Day Fund as the fiscal needs for education are great.

- The law that created the Rainy Day Fund specifically prohibits funding cost items in any collective bargaining contract. Restoration of instructional days will require funds to support collective bargaining agreements.
- The Rainy Day Fund must address what it was intended to support: pressing community needs for health, safety and welfare. Shortfalls in these areas impact our community’s most fragile.

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. CCH has programs serving elders, children, developmentally disabled, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai`i.

With the current economic situation, the numbers of people at risk are growing. There are more people coming to our doors needing food, shelter, jobs and other basics of life. There is nothing more heartbreaking than to have to turn away families with young children, frail elders and individuals with disabilities.

Losing one’s job in many families with young infants adds tremendous stress. Programs dealing with child abuse, domestic violence, and family counseling have become more critical. Growing needs will only continue and further cuts will put more families at risk.

Cuts to services for senior citizens and individuals with developmental disabilities place these vulnerable populations at risk of costly institutionalization for which government, and taxpayers, will eventually bear the burden.

The legislature had the foresight to set up the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund as a safety net for social services. The safety net for all social services that affect our most vulnerable in the state is getting very thin and will soon be in shreds if nothing is done. There will be many more people faced with health and safety issues and it will cost the State, and taxpayers, more money in the long run if we do not **do what we can now** to maintain these at risk populations in the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to contact me at 527-4888 or swong@catholiccharitieshawaii.org if I can provide any further information.

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Feb. 10, 2010 - Conference Room 308 – 2:00 p.m.; Agenda #1

Re: **HB 2963 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION FROM THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET RESERVE FUND FOR EDUCATION.**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

Aloha. My name is Deborah Arendale and I am the Maui County Office on Aging Executive on Aging. MCOA serves individuals over the age of 60 throughout Maui County. Last year MCOA served approximately 2400 frail elders with home-based services, supported over 11,300 individuals in Maui County with educational services, and provided caregiving information to over 13,300 family members and friends.

I am opposed to HB 2963. The bill's purpose is to make an emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to the General Fund for fiscal year 2009 – 2010 so that furlough days can be turned into instructional days. Although I certainly am fully supportive of our keiki receiving the best possible education, I am opposed to the utilization of the "Rainy Day" fund.

My understanding is that the Emergency and Budget Reserve has been established to serve as a safety net to address community needs for health, safety and welfare. Further, I believe the law that established the Rainy Day fund prohibits the funding of any cost items in collective bargaining contracts.

As a direct service provider to Maui County's frail elders, I am already seeing the effects of budgetary restraints in the way of decreasing levels of services. Many of our elders depend on Kupuna Care services to maintain a level of health, safety and welfare necessary to allow them to remain in their homes and avoid institutionalization. In fact, with the amount of money necessary to serve 23 elders in institutions, MCOA is able to serve approximately 17,000 folks (almost 2400 of them are frail) as they remain in the community.

The educational needs of our keiki are far greater than the amount of the Rainy Day fund can meet in the long run. While I do believe it is necessary to fund education, depleting the Rainy Day fund will not fully meet the education budgetary needs and will place our community's frailest members in danger. Again, I support the use of the Rainy Day fund for the purpose for which it was created: to serve as a safety net to address community needs for health, safety and welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Re: Testimony on HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members:

My name is Michele Paularena and I am a resident at Hale Mahaolu Elua in Kahului, Maui with my wheelchair bound spouse. I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education.

I know that education is very important and shortfalls must be addressed but the Emergency and Budget Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund is not the appropriate fund from which to address education.

1. Education's fiscal needs are so great that the remedy is likely to decimate the Rainy Day Fund without solving the problem.
2. The failure to resolve issues of collective bargaining brought about by should not provide a tool to raid other very much needed services.
3. There are other pressing community needs, especially those related to health, safety and public welfare needs, that the Rainy Day Fund was intended to support.
4. I want to see a significant part of the Rainy Day Fund used to support home and community based services for seniors through the Kupuna Care Program.
5. I see too many cases where seniors, due to no fault of their own, are forced to rely on services funded by the State in order to barely exist. We have neighbors who cannot keep their home clean and livable without assistance but who doesn't have the funds needed to purchase those services on his own. I of another person who is quadriplegic. Without companion services his mother could not work and he would be a ward of the State. Being in his home is critical to his sanity and to his mother's well being. I can speak of these things with deep concern because I care for my wheelchair bound husband. Without me beside him he would be in the same boat. Taking away from the vulnerable and kupuna will surely tell our young people that if they become incapacitated or they age the state will consider that they too are not worth assistance in their remaining years.

In summary, the Rainy Day fund was not designed for and is too small to be more than a temporary fix for education. The Rainy Day fund must be preserved because it is needed to protect critical health and human service programs for Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens. That includes Kupuna Care, which provides home and community based services for our home bound, frail elder citizens. I urge you to vote no on HB 2963.

Thank you,
Michele Paularena

Testimony on HB 2963, Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency
and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

House Finance Committee

Chair: Rep. Marcus Oshiro

Vice-Chair: Rep. Marilyn Lee

Presented by Howard S. Garval, President & CEO, Child & Family Service

February 10, 2010

State Capitol, Room 308, 2 p.m.

Good afternoon, Chair Oshiro and Vice-Chair Lee, ^{and Committee Members,} My name is Howard Garval and I am President & CEO of Child & Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and largest human service nonprofit organization touching the lives of over 40,000 of Hawaii's residents each year.

First let me make it clear that Child & Family Service believes strongly that our keiki should have their classroom days restored and that furlough Fridays should end. The Governor, the Legislature, the Board of Education, and the HSTA should get this done not only for the children but also for their parents who have had to find alternative child care on every Furlough Friday. This was an unfortunate decision that should have been avoided with an alternative approach. Yes, the fiscal challenges facing the state are substantial, but this was not the answer and has just become a stain on the state of Hawaii.

However, it is a sad state of affairs when the education for kids and the needs of our most vulnerable citizens are pitted against each other. This should not be an either/or scenario; either we restore the classroom days for kids or we find the resources to prevent further cuts to human services to the most needy. While we support the intent of this bill, HB 2963 would deplete the Rainy Day Fund just for education and totally eliminate this potential source of funding to prevent further cuts to human services, reduce the impact of these cuts, or restore funding cuts that went too deep. Many at-risk children will not even enter school ready to learn without social services that address the risk factors in the family. For our most vulnerable children and families, human services may be the only way to help children enter school ready to learn. We must have public policy that focuses on the needs of the whole child and not one need at the expense of another.

While the solution is not an easy one to find, I urge you to find a way through the Rainy Day Fund and other revenue sources to end the furlough Fridays and give kids their classroom days back, while at the same time preserving human services to the most vulnerable in our communities. The human costs will be too great if you don't find a way to do this and in the long run even economically it will cost the state more.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Subject: Testimony on HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Committee Members. My name is Esther Ueda and I am a resident of Pearl City, Honolulu and a part-time caregiver. I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB 2963 Relating to Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education.

Although I believe that education is important and the current situation with so many furlough days and reduced classroom days for our children must be addressed, I do not believe that using the Emergency and Budget Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund is the appropriate way to address this problem.

The Department of Education's fiscal needs are so great that the remedy is likely to decimate the Rainy Day Fund.

In this current economic situation, there are so many other pressing community needs, especially those related to health, safety and welfare needs, that the Rainy Day Fund was intended to and can help support.

I would like to see part of the Rainy Day Fund used to support home and community based services for seniors. As a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Project Dana, I know how important these Senior services are to help our Seniors remain independent in their own homes for as long as possible.

In summary, I feel that the Rainy Day fund would not be best used as a temporary fix for education and a longer term solution must be found.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

To: Committee on Education and Housing, Senator Norman Sakamoto Chair
Committee on Human Services, Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Re: HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Good afternoon Chair Oshiro and Committee members. My name is Steve Tam and I am a resident of Hawaii Kai and a caregiver for my father in Aina Haina and father-in-law in Hawaii Kai. I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB 2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education.

As a parent with two children, I appreciate the importance of education and the need to address the furlough situation. However, funds for the restoration of instructional days should NOT be from the Emergency and Budget Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund for the following reasons.

1. Education is a critical program that needs its own sustainable line of funding. Utilizing the Rainy Day Fund is a temporary "band-aid" fix. Without a "permanent fix" the State will need to again address this issue for the 2011-2012 school year.
2. Education funding needs are so large that ultimately appropriations from the Rainy Day Fund will deplete the Fund.
3. The Rainy Day Fund was also intended to support very critical and urgent health, safety, and welfare needs of the community.

I urge that a part of the Rainy Day Fund be used to support home and community based services for the senior population. We need to address care for seniors now, as the cost of caring for seniors is getting more severe each day. In 20 years, the number of people over 60 years old will increase by 50%, when 1 of 4 will be over 60 years old. Many of these seniors are part of the unlucky "gap" group that does not have enough monies to pay for the assistance to meet daily needs, yet have enough money and thus cannot qualify for Medicare for this help.

I have a personal interest in this matter, being a caregiver for my father who has Alzheimer's, and my father-in-law who had a stroke. I left my full-time job in part to care for my parents and in-laws. However, I need to return to work to pay for my children's college education. I have found that there are many families in similar situations. I understand that there are approximately 169,000 caregivers in Hawaii. A staggering 1 in 4 people, over the age of 18, provide caregiver services. Every day, family caregivers help their parents, at no cost to the State, with baths, hot meals, toileting assistance, transportation, and all other household chores that their parent are no longer able to perform. However, caregivers cannot do it alone, and will burn out if they cannot get help a few times a week with meals, baths, and chores for parents, and time to take care of themselves and their children.

In summary, the furlough situation needs to be addressed. However, the Rainy Day Fund was not intended to fund collective bargaining, and in any event is too small to be more than a short-term "band-aid" fix for our education budget problems. The Rainy Day Fund is needed for critical and pressing health and human service programs (such as Kupuna Care) for our senior population. It's the right thing to do for our seniors, who have sacrificed all their lives for us and our children, and now need our love and support.

Sincerely,

Steve Tam

Albert E Beeman
908 Kumukoa St
Hilo, HI 96720
albeeman@yahoo.com
Tel: 808-895-1813 Fax: 808-934-0144

February 9th, 2010

To: House Committee on Finance

Subject: **Testimony in Opposition to HB 2963**

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chairman Oshiro and Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Finance Committee,

I am TOTALLY opposed to raiding the Rainy Day Fund. Hawaii has been able to maintain its credit rating by exhibiting fiscal discipline even in hard times, this is no time to "fall off the wagon"!!!

- The law that created the Rainy Day Fund specifically prohibits funding cost items in any collective bargaining contract. Restoration of instructional days will require funds to support collective bargaining agreements.
- The Rainy Day Fund must address what it was intended to support:
 - pressing community needs for
 - health
 - safety
 - welfare
 - Shortfalls in the Rainy Day Fund will impact our community's most fragile segments.

When something really bad happens in Hawaii we are going to need these funds so let's truly keep them for a "rainy day"!

There are several things that can be done to fix our many problems and legitimate needs in the DOE but this is not one of them.

Me ka pono (Very respectfully submitted),

Albert E Beeman
Hilo

Testimony re: HB 2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

My name is Jim Crowe. I am from Kula on Maui. I am testifying in opposition to HB 2963 Relating to The Funding of State Programs. As you work to solve our state's financial difficulties please keep your hearts and minds on our kupuna. The Rainy Day Fund is not the proper fund to address non-health issues in the State. It should be used, as originally instituted, for health needs such as home based and community based health care for Hawaii's kupuna, such as through the Kupuna Care Program.

I am a caregiver for my senior citizen spouse who has a chronic health condition. I know three other caregivers in my neighborhood. What we caregivers can share is encouragement and personal support for each other. What we can not share is financial resources because we are on fixed income. Care giving is personally and financially draining. It is a responsibility and burden that only those doing caregivers can fully sense. The Rainy Day fund is needed to support caregivers like me and my friends, from the threat of financial hardship, which would only multiply the problems that we are working so diligently to handle.

Leaving out our senior citizens would be only dismissing our weakest but precious people. Please preserve the Rainy Day Fund for our most vulnerable citizens.

Jim Crowe
30 Alanui Pl.
Kula HI 96790

808 876 1975

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Re: Testimony on HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members: My name is Leona Pereza and I am a resident of Kailua, Oahu and a former family caregiver for four of my family members. I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education.

I know firsthand what an enormous responsibility it is to be a caregiver and even greater if some vital resources in the community are to be threatened by budget cuts. With that being said, education is equally important to training our children to be future leaders of a sustainable community in Hawaii. But let that not be a reason to take from one pocket to fill the other. Our kupuna deserve to be cared for in the best possible way during their remaining years, after all they are the ones who worked hard to build this fine State that we now enjoy.

Adding to this sentiment are three very good reasons for not taking from the Rainy Day Fund.

- This would be a “band-aid fix” for a system that has been hemorrhaging our tax dollars far too long without accountability and with poor scholastic outcomes. It is a system that is past due for a complete overhaul and public audit to repair the weep holes rather than throwing more money at a broken educational system.
- There are other immediate needs related to health safety, welfare needs, and child healthcare needs, that the Rainy Day Fund was intended to support.
- I strongly advocate for the Rainy Day Funds to be used to support home and community services for our seniors. On a personal level, if my husband and I were not able to care for my mother, father and two siblings in our home before their deaths I know for certain their lives would have been cut even shorter. My heart would have been broken beyond repair to see them die alone at home because of the unaffordable cost of long term care and no resources to assist us in facing the end with dignity and worth. Yet, the work of a caregiver is long, hard, and unbelievably sad. I urge you all not to take away or even jeopardize what help is there through Kupuna Care. Help us preserve the Rainy Day Fund for its intended use. Our peace of mind depends on it.

I urge you to vote no on HB 2963.

moshiro1-Ann

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 1:00 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mundo_pi@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2963 on 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2963

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: M. Pualani Kamajunu Basbas
Organization: Individual
Address: 7 Halewaiu Road Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
Phone: (808) 214-9755
E-mail: mundo_pi@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2010

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony on HB2963 to oppose using rainy day monies to address school furloughs, this was not the intent of these monies.

This does not solve our problems as a matter of fact it's the old cliché; we are borrowing from Paul to pay Peter, so does it may sense, no. Neither is it good business or sound financial practice.

herefore, I oppose HB2963.

Ahahalo

M. Pualani Kamaunu Basbas
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Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793
(808) 214-9755

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Subject: Testimony on HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members: My name is Zoe Jarvis and I'm a resident of Waianae and a Tax Aide volunteer. I'm writing in opposition of HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

I believe that education is important and shortfalls must be addressed. However, the Emergency and Budget Reserve (Rainy Day) Fund is not the appropriate vehicle to address education funding needs for three reasons.

- First, Education needs are so great that fixing them is likely to decimate the Rainy Day Fund.
- There are other pressing community needs, especially those related to health, safety and welfare needs, that the Rainy Day Fund was intended to support.
- I want to see part of the Rainy Day Fund used to support home and community based services for seniors.

I have a friend who was a caregiver for her husband and daughter and it was a 24 hour job. Without some assistance through Kupuna Care services she would not have been able to handle the responsibility throughout the care process.

As a Tax Aide volunteer I help our most vulnerable seniors on a weekly basis and I see a great need for Kupuna Care services as well as other human services. Please don't use the Rainy Day Fund for one issue and leave the rest of our community's needs out in the cold.

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.
Re: Testimony on HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the
Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

Chair Oshiro and Committee Members, I oppose HB2963.

The Rainy Day fund is not big enough to fix the Education Budget and it was not designed to do so. This special fund was created in part to protect critical health and human service programs--such as Kupuna Care.

Year after year the elder population and their needs have increased. Our State leaders have not made adequate plans to address the current needs and the massive needs of the future—Boomer Generation. The funding from the Rainy Day fund to help seniors through Kupuna Care this year and every year is critical.

When the very basic needs of meals, bathing, and case management are dropped, the result can be irreversible. Furlough days for seniors can lead to death.

The Rainy Day fund must be preserved and used for human service needs. I speak as a concerned constituent and I speak for the frail, homebound citizens who cannot be here today to fight for their survival.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Olah

To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Conference Room 308, 2:00 p.m.

Re: Testimony on HB2963 Making an Emergency Appropriation from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund for Education

I am writing in opposition of HB 2963. It is so very important in this year of limited resources that funds be used as they were intended to be used. I have actually written letters to the Maui News suggesting that the legislator "borrow" from the hurricane fund with the understanding that the money will be replaced when the economy turns around,

However, the "rainy day" fund was set up to provide funds on rainy days, and for kupuna care, it's raining cats and dogs. Please consider not taking from this fund for education but rather free up money from this fund to provide help for our elderly and infirmed.

Tony Fisher

moshiro1-Ann

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 6:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2963 on 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/10/2010 2:00:00 PM HB2963

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Anthony Lenzer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: 261-2095
E-mail: Tlenzer@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2010

Comments:

My name is Anthony Lenzer. I am a member of several senior advocacy groups which have spoken out on this issue. Today, however, I am testifying as an individual, in opposition to HB 2963. I do so not because I am opposed to supporting our children. I am a grandfather, with two grandchildren in our public schools. I care a great deal for them, and want Hawaii to provide the best possible education for all of Hawaii's children. However, taking \$50 million out of the Rainy Day Fund will not solve the DOE's funding problems. What it will do, however, is slash and finally destroy the safety net that this fund was designed to maintain, for frail elders and others who depend on our health and social services systems.

I understand that, in hard times, the Legislature must make hard choices. But you must also make the right choices. This is not the right choice. I urge you not to pass HB 2963.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.