

HB 739

LINDA LINGLE
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LILLIAN B. KOLLER
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 24, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 739, H.D. 2 - RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE
TO NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2009; 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of H.B. 739, H.D. 2 is to detail how the Legislature directs the Department of Human Services to spend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, emphasizing child care services, work program contracts and related support services, the prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the purchase of service contracts for child protective services, information system maintenance, and administrative costs. Transfers portions of TANF funds to the social services block grant and child care development fund.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services is in strong support of this bill with the following recommendations:

1. Amend Part II, Section 3, of the bill as follows:

"SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$44,000,000 or so much thereof as may be

necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 to provide monthly cash benefits to eligible families, and for associated eligibility determination costs.”

2. Amend Part III, Section 5, of the bill as follows:

“SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$26,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 for obtaining job training contracts and providing related support services for temporary assistance for needy families and temporary assistance to other needy families recipients.”

3. Amend Part IV, Section 7, of the bill as follows:

“SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$12,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 for programs to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.”

4. Amend Part V, Section 9, of the bill as follows:

“SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$7,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 to purchase service contracts for child protective services.”

5. Amend Part VI, Section 11, of the bill as follows:

"SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$19,800,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 to be transferred to the child care development fund."

6. Amend Part VI, Section 12 of the bill as follows:

"SECTION 12. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$9,890,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 to be transferred to the social services block grant."

7. Amend Part VI, Section 13 of the bill as follows:

"SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 for information systems costs related to the temporary assistance for needy families program."

8. Amend Part VI, Section 14 of the bill as follows:

"SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the federal temporary assistance for needy families funds the sum of \$9,500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 -2010 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 -2011 for the costs of administering the temporary assistance for needy families program."

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

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

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
820 Milliani Street, Suite 817
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-5700
Fax: (808) 587-5734

March 24, 2009

TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Martha T. Torney, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **HB 739, HD2--RELATING TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO
NEEDY FAMILIES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 24, 2009, 2:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

The Office of Youth Services strongly supports HB739, HD2--Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, which directs the allocation of TANF funding for essential and worthwhile services for youth and families. In recent years, TANF funding has been used effectively to expand the ability of government and non-profit agencies to address teenage pregnancy and related issues through pregnancy education programs and prevention services. Such programs and services promote resilient youth and strong families and therefore, make a positive impact on the future of our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



Sen HMS Cmte
Tues, Mar 24, 2009
2:15 pm
room 016

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 23, 2009

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

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

RE: HB 739, HD1 Relating to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families- **SUPPORT**

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. I am also a member of the Financial Assistance Advisory Council (FAAC) of DHS and the Welfare and Employment Rights Coalition (WERC). **NASW supports HB 739 HD2.**

As the economy worsens, the safety net is needed even more. Government must assist vulnerable individuals and families meet their basic shelter, food and health care needs and support their return to the workforce. The middle class may also be losing their jobs, housing and suffering economic dislocation as a result of the recession, so TANF funds must also be used to help prevent the middle class from falling into poverty. In this time of economic struggle the health and human services sector needs to remain strong to help those who are in need of assistance.

We urge you to support the use of these TANF funds as identified in HB 739 HD2.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

March 24, 2009

Senator Donna Mercado-Kim, Chair, WAM
Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, HMS
Members of the WAM and HMS Committees
Hawaii State Capitol,
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: HB 739, Relating to TANF

Dear Senators Mercado Kim and Chun-Oakland:

I am Gail Breakey, Director of the Hawaii Family Support Institute testifying in support of HB 739. This bill provides funding a number of important human service programs aimed a reducing child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, enhancing youth development

In previous hearings of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, many of us have testified as to the need for the Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start programs related to the safety and well being of high risk infants. We has also testified as to the effectiveness and cost benefit of the Healthy Start program, as well as the fact that Enhanced Healthy Start does not replace the functions of Healthy Start..

It is clear that these funds will be sorely needed as part of the effort to maintain these services for the highest risk families. Recognizing that budget cuts are inevitable in this economic climate, the service providers have developed a more streamlined assessment process and services that will actually intervene with only the highest risk families, those with scores of 40 and over on the Family Stress Checklist, who according to the validation study on the Checklist have a 50% likelihood of becoming a child welfare case.

Thank you very much for your serious consideration of allocating these funds to the Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start programs, as well as to other needed services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Breakey".

Gail Breakey, Executive Director,
The Hawaii Family Support Institute

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Hawai'i Women
Work! Board of
Directors

Date: March 23, 2009

Sarah Hodell
President

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE on HUMAN SERVICES
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Teresa Bill
Secretary

From: Teresa Bill

Catherine Wehrman
Treasurer

RE: **SUPPORT HB 739, HD2** Relating to TANF

Tues. March 24, 2009 2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016 1 Copy to Clerk in Room 226

I am Teresa Bill, testifying **in support of HB 739, HD2,** on behalf of Hawai'i WomenWork! which is a member of the Welfare Employment Rights Coalition. This bill is the perennial bill detailing the appropriation of federal funds for TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). These are all necessary and important elements of the "First-to-Work" program, including the childcare block grant, social services block grant, information technology costs and other administrative costs.

Thank You for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 739, HD2.

Testimony in **strong support** of HB 739
Submitted by Linda Coble 284-2000

Aloha Senators Chun Oakland and Ihara, and all involved
with the Senate Human Services Committee,

Thank you in advance for including Healthy Start in your
TANF plans. The hospital based screening of families of
newborns, and the home visiting program for those who
are identified as needing services and support, have been
preventing child abuse and neglect for 25 years.

Healthy Start is not duplicative of other services. The program's
outcomes and effectiveness have been measured and evaluated more
than any State funded program I know. Hawaii's Healthy Start has
been the model for the nationwide Healthy Families America child
abuse prevention programs across the country. The recent
5-year, 2.5-million dollar competitive grant awarded to Healthy Start
by the Federal Administration for Children and Families, illustrates the
program's success and potential. That money will evaporate with
the demise of Healthy Start. But more importantly, I can't imagine
what will happen when, in this skidding economy, the safety net
of child abuse prevention is yanked out from under our vulnerable
keiki.

Prevention is the key! Without Healthy Start, who will connect
with families in hospitals at the birth of newborns to accurately assess
risk for abuse, neglect, or developmental and learning problems? Who
will provide valuable home visiting services that strengthen families,
prevent child mal treatment and promote child health and
development? Who will keep the floodgates in place, so other
providers and hospitals don't drown in new cases after the damage is
done?

Mahalo for recognizing the need for continued funding of Healthy Start.

Respectfully,
Linda Coble, Volunteer, Advisory Board
Hawaii Family Support Institute