

HACBED

Community Voice, Collective Action

Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development
677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 702 Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph. 808.550.2661 Fax 808.534.1199
Email info@hacbed.org www.hacbed.org

Board Members

President

Jason Okuhama (*at large*)
Managing Partner,
Commercial & Business
Lending

Secretary

Rian Dubach (*at large*)
Community Development &
CRA Manager
American Savings Bank

Treasurer

Wayne Tanna (*at large*)
Asset Building Coalition &
Chaminade University

Kipukai Kualii (*Kauai*)
Anahola Kauai Agribusiness
Microenterprise Project

Stacy Crivello (*Molokai*)
President
Ke Aupuni Lokahi

Puni Kekauoha &
Adrienne Dillard (*Oahu*)
Papakolea Community
Development Corporation

Keikialoha Kekipi &
Susie Osborne (*Hawaii*)
Ho'oulu Lahui/ Kua O Ka La
Public Charter School

Kukui & Gary Maunakea-Forth
(*Oahu*)
Wai'anae Community Re-
development Corporation -
Mala Ai 'Opio (MA'O)

Tommy Otake (*at large*)
Attorney At Law

HACBED Staff

Robert Agres, Jr
Executive Director

Brent Dillabaugh
Asset Policy Coordinator

Larissa Meinecke
Asset Policy Associate

John Higgins
Capacity Building Associate

Briana Monroe
Program Support Assistant

Trung Doan
Graduate Research Assistant

Senate Committee on Human Services
Committee Hearing
Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 at 1:50 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

SB 2032 - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) is submitting testimony in **support of SB 2032** which establishes an economic opportunity poverty reduction task force.

We thank you for proposing the creation of a task force that would: 1) assess current state policies and practices, along with evidence-based solutions utilized in other states, that promote economic opportunity and poverty reduction; and 2) develop a plan to expand economic opportunities in Hawaii to reduce the number of families in poverty.

As families and communities struggle to get through these hard economic times, a joint legislative task force that seeks strategies to reduce poverty in Hawai'i, with a goal of reducing poverty by at least 50 percent by 2020, is very much needed to help families reach self sufficiency and move out of poverty.

Across the nation, asset building has proven to help families move out of poverty. Asset building strategies help families advance economic opportunities for themselves, save and build assets so they are able to reach self sufficiency and not fall back into poverty. Assets are important for three reasons:

1. To have **financial security** against difficult times
2. To create **economic opportunities** for oneself
3. To leave a **legacy** for future generations to have a better life

At the end of 2009, the State Asset Building Task Force completed its final report on strategies that can help families move out of poverty and build assets. The final report can be viewed on our website at: <http://www.hacbed.org/images/stories/PDF/asset%20building%20task%20force%20final%20report.pdf>. We feel the work of the Asset Building Task Force could complement the work of this task force.

We would also like to ask that voices of families and communities be part of this task force to help shape strategies and policies that truly help families move out of poverty and reach self sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,
Larissa Meinecke, Asset Policy Associate



Sen HMS Committee
Thurs, Jan 28, 2010
1:50 pm
Room 16

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

January 26, 2010

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: SB 2032 Relating to Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force (EOPR)

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. NASW is the largest professional organization for social workers in Hawaii.

NASW supports SB 2032 establishing a joint legislative economic opportunity poverty reduction task force.

Thank you for proposing the creation of a task force to: 1) assess current state policies and practices; 2) study and evaluate evidence-based solutions to promote economic opportunity and poverty reduction in other states; and 3) develop a comprehensive plan in Hawaii with the goal of reducing the number of residents living in poverty by at least 50% by 2020.

During this time of economic crisis, the gap between the haves and have-nots is widening and more individuals are falling into poverty. Policy makers need to educate themselves on current state policies and practices as well as study what other states are doing. Without a comprehensive plan and goal, we will never reduce the number of our citizens living in poverty.

The EOPR is a nice "next step" to the work that the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Economic Development has already started on asset building. I would like to ask that the EOPR task force incorporate the work and recommendations that the Asset Building Task Force just completed in 2009.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.