

Testimony on SB 2044



By

Howard Garval, President and CEO

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Child & Family Service

Presented to Committee on Human Services

January 27, 2010

RE: Emergency Domestic Violence Shelters Appropriation

Child and Family Service believes SB 2044 is essential to provide the necessary emergency shelter services to victims and children. Domestic Violence is a serious problem. Domestic Violence shelters are no longer just a place to be safe and to get basic needs met. The needs of families fleeing for safety are increasing. The needs of the families include more intense services of counseling, resources, and time to heal.

Additional funding that was appropriated for fiscal year 2007 allowed the shelters to increase staffing and programming to meet clients' needs more appropriately. This additional funding enabled us to have more than one staff member on the evening shift (4pm to 12pm) in our shelters as well as to provide additional services to the adults and children such as parenting support, mental health counseling and counseling for the children. The four shelters operated by CFS did receive less funding for FY2010 in the amount of \$380,972, which resulted in a reduction in staff and services. Now there have been times that over 20 residents are in the shelter with only one staff person there to provide service and support. This is too thin a staffing pattern, but it is all that organizations can afford with the recent reductions in funding.

The services required for an emergency shelter operation continue to increase. Insufficient funding creates a bigger challenge to maintain staffing adequate to provide appropriate services to victims and their children. Each year costs to run a residential program (such as water, utilities, food, gas) increase. In addition, clients are staying longer due to the lack of affordable housing. Clients are also limited in their ability to find additional services outside of the shelter and are often fearful of seeking services outside of the shelter due to safety as well as trust issues.

It is for these reasons that SB 2044 has our support and we request your favorable deliberation on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.



DATE: January 27, 2010

TO: Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

LATE

RE: SB 2044: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS.

FROM: STACEY MONIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Aloha Senators:

Thank you so much for hearing this bill today to include an appropriation for domestic violence shelters in Hawaii. As the economy continues to struggle, we would ask that the State continue to consider the financial challenges being faced by the shelters statewide. We truly appreciate the fact that the State Legislature has appropriated funds for our essential shelters for the past few years. We did not receive the funding last year due to budget limitations. We sincerely hope that we will receive this funding this year as we are being told by most of our funders that the funding will decrease next year and private donors and foundations are also giving at minimal levels during this time of economic hardship.

In fiscal year 2008/2009, Women Helping Women sheltered 159 women and 140 children for a total of 8,197 bed nights. We also answered a total of 11,268 calls to our hotline, of which 1,813 were from people in actual crisis from domestic violence. We provide critical essential services to our community.

Thank you for your support. Please feel free to contact me at 808-242-6600 x20 or via email at director@whwmaui.net should you want more information or have any questions.

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PACT

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TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Haaheo Mansfield, Vice President
Parents And Children Together

RE: In Strong Support of SB 2044, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

OAHU PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY TEEN CENTER

CPS VISITATION CENTERS

EARLY HEAD START/
HEAD START

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CENTER

FAMILY PEACE CENTER

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER

HANA LIKE HOME
VISITOR PROGRAM

INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

KANEOHE COMMUNITY
FAMILY CENTER

KPT FAMILY CENTER

LEHUA TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

OHIA - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SHELTER

RESPITE CARE

MAUI COUNTY PROGRAMS

FAMILY PEACE CENTER

INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

LANAI INTEGRATED SERVICES

KAUAI COUNTY PROGRAMS

FAMILY VISITATION CENTER

INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

HAWAII ISLAND PROGRAM

KEONEPOKO PRE-PLUS CHILD CARE

MEMBER:

CWLA

ALOHA UNITED WAY

COA

My name is Haaheo Mansfield. I serve as the Vice President of Programs at Parents And Children Together. PACT is one of Hawaii's leading not-for-profit human service providers, with 14 programs statewide providing services to over 9,000 individuals annually. PACT is the only provider in Hawaii that provides the full continuum of domestic violence services to offenders, victim/survivors (group intervention, shelter and crisis line services), children impacted by domestic violence. On Maui, in addition to offender services for adults and teens, we also provide group intervention for Ilocano and Spanish speakers, group intervention for offenders with co-occurring substance abuse and Temporary Restraining Order services.

I strongly urge your support of SB 2044. SB2044 appropriates additional funding for domestic violence shelters across the state. In 2009, the Honolulu Advertiser reported Hawaii topped the national average in domestic violence homicide per capita. It is a daunting statistical reflection of the terror in which victim/survivors and their children live. Domestic violence shelters meet a critical and life saving need. They provide a safe and confidential haven for those who make that important decision to leave their abusers. Often, the shelters are the one place in which the day-to-day activities of life become "normal" and no longer filled with terror and uncertainty.

I urge you to support the passage of SB 2044. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.