

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: Melanie Mundon [puamundon@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:37 AM
To: EDH Testimony
Subject: Support of SB2124: HHRF

Aloha Senators hearing SB2124,

My name is Melanie P. Mundon. I am blessed to call Kane'ohe home. I am also a 4th Grade teacher at Mokapu Elementary in Kailua O'ahu on the Marine Corps Base.

I want to thank you for your support of teachers in the past. I support our legislators in all their efforts to make Hawai'i a place that our keiki can receive a quality public education by employing and retaining highly qualified teachers. My parents moved away at 18 yrs. old in hopes of being able to support a family. I was born in California. Now I have been fortunate enough to return a generation later and have been able to support myself as a teacher while also serving my community. I love Hawai'i and its children and hope to continue to call it my home forever.

I am writing in **support of SB 2124** which "makes an appropriation from the Hawaii hurricane relief fund to restore all remaining lost instructional days for the 2009-2010 school year; provided that the moneys shall only be released upon completion of negotiations of parties necessary to execute the restoration of instructional days. (\$)"

I will tell you that I do support my Union, HSTA and understand first hand the sacrifice in money, Professional Development, and Work Days. I am active in my Union and was the lead on converting our 3 remaining PD days to student days this school year here at Mokapu Elem. and yet, we continue to feel pressure to achieve our standards during a 4 day week.

I think we all agree that teachers work hard...that teachers are not paid enough or appreciated enough...that teachers try their best to help their students in and out of the work day...that teaching is a calling and not a job...and yet, we are not willing to fully fund it. I advocate for my students daily. I have and will continue to go to the mat to fight for maximizing the use of resources for them to directly benefit from.

I wouldn't trade my job for anything though. I get rejuvenated on why I do what I do everyday by my students. Who else can say that at their jobs?

Sadly, the reality is that at the end of the day, teachers have to come home and pay the bills and feed our families and sometimes in my case, even our extended families. Please support SB 2124 so my students can return to school to learn and I can return to work to grow that learning. The children are our future and worth the investment.

Together we can achieve anything.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and support of this issue, SB2124.

Malama Pono,

Melanie P. Mundon

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LATE TESTIMONY

PHOCUSED

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

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TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
And members of the Senate Education, and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees

FROM: Joanne Lundstrom, Chair
PHOCUSED (Protecting Hawai'i's Ohana, Children, UnderServed, Elderly and Disabled)

RE: SB 2124 Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund

Senator Sakamoto, Senator Baker and members of the Senate Education, and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees. I am Joanne Lundstrom, chair of PHOCUSED, a coalition of health, housing, human service agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawai'i. **PHOCUSED supports the intent of SB 2124 to end furlough Fridays.** Clearly a solution to end this short sighted decision to balance our budget must be found.

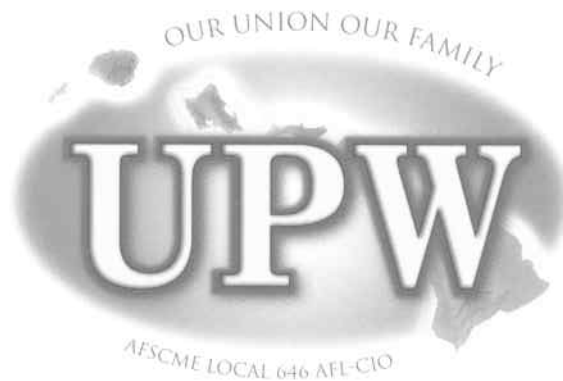
PHOCUSED believes the use of the Hurricane Relief Fund is a more appropriate use of state reserve funds rather than using a combination of the Hurricane Relief Funds and the Rainy Day fund. In addition, PHOCUSED believes that discussion is needed on how best to allocate other reserve funds, and respectfully 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 urge 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.



LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

Committee on Education & Housing
Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Sen. David Y Ige, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010
TIME: 1:20 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, LOCAL 646, ON SB 2124,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND**

SB 2124 appropriates \$50,000,000 from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund (HHRF) to restore all remaining lost instructional days for the 2009-2010 school year.

Although we understand and empathize with this bill's intent, we also have a major concern. We do not believe it is right to use the HHRF restrictively to offset teacher furlough days. During the interim, the Legislature's informational briefings disclosed the devastating effects the economic downturn is having on all our public services. Yes, education is a priority, but so are our public safety, health, human services, environmental and agricultural programs.

This measure is unfair to all other state workers who have been furloughed and it would foster resentment in the workforce by pitting one group of workers against another. We are all in this together and it is going to take all of us working, sacrificing, and sharing equally to get us out of this hole.

For this reason we cannot support SB 2124 as written.

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