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LATE



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Bill No: SB2260	Title: RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH.
Committee: <u>COMMITTEE ON HEALTH</u> Senator David Y. Ige, Chair Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair <u>COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES</u> Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair	Hearing Date/Time: DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010 TIME: 2:45 pm PLACE: Conference Room 016 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
Submitted by: Name: Howard Garval Title: CEO	Contact Information: Phone: 681-3500 Fax: 681-1449
Testimony in: (X) SUPPORT () OPPOSITION of proposed bill.	

We support the appropriation of an additional \$2,963,411, or as much as may be necessary, to provide additional funding for the Kupuna Care Program which is in addition to the \$4,854,350 executive office on aging base budget.

The mission of Child and Family Service is strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children.. We do this by providing services from our youngest Keiki to our oldest Kupuna. Hawaii's strength comes from its `Ohana which includes our elders. We believe that supporting our seniors will also help us to stabilize our economy by preventing premature institutionalization which in turn will increase the state dollars needed to pay for long-term care for our Kupuna.

The Kupuna Care Program is directed at serving those who fall through the gaps in services. It provides a safety net to prevent institutionalization and support seniors in their homes. The waitlist for these services continues to grow as the senior population grows and more seniors face difficult economic times. They are often times choosing to pay for food or medication, doctor visits or rent.

Our State Constitution identifies the need to protect and provide for our seniors. In Article 9 it states: **ECONOMIC SECURITY OF THE ELDERLY**

Section 4. The State shall have the power to provide for the security of the elderly by establishing and promoting programs to assure their economic and social wellbeing.

In these difficult times seniors become more vulnerable and we must be sure that their safety is insured. The best way to do this is through programs that provide assistance and support as well as being the first line of defense if a senior has a change in their circumstances.

Thank you for your support of our valuable Kupuna.

Sincerely,

Howard S. Garval
 President & CEO

