

The Salvation Army Honolulu Advisory Board

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 2469`

DATE: Thursday, February 4, 2010

Aloha, my name is Claire Woods and I am a member of The Salvation Army Honolulu Advisory Board. I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2469. I deeply appreciate the efforts of this committee to provide a platform for social service providers to not only inform you of our budget restrictions, but more importantly, to share with you the huge IMPACT these cuts have had in the services provided to Hawaii's families and our service delivery system of care.

The cuts have been brutal this year. Overall, the Salvation Army provides a wide array of services to families through three major programs:

ATS -Addiction Treatment Services (Honolulu – residential, outpatient alcohol and drug treatment for men and women)

FTS- Family Treatment Services Honolulu-residential alcohol and drug treatment, clean and sober transitional living, for pregnant and parenting women and their children

FIS- Family Intervention Services (Big Island) emergency shelters for runaway youth, independent living/transitional housing for homeless youth

These programs are nationally accredited, and recognized as being a shining example of "best practices" in their areas of service.

They are unique service providers, often being the sole provider of the type of care they provide, and the target population they serve.

Collectively, The Salvation Army has experienced a funding reduction in the amount of 3 million dollars. The reductions by program are as follows:

ATS \$1.2 million

FTS \$

FIS

The impact of these cuts has been brutal. Attached, please find impact statements developed by the programs themselves, the folks who face the challenges of decreased funding, day and day out.

It goes without saying that a restoration of these funds would stabilize these programs through a very unsure time in our economy. When times are tough, these types of programs see an overall increase in demands for services. While I can appreciate the need to spread the funds around to meet the increased needs in other areas such as education, I think it would be terribly shortsighted to focus in on one area of need. There will never be enough to go around. I can only hope that the deliberations re: these funds will include an emphasis on the safety net provided for Hawaii's families through the social services programs – vital contributing members of our community. Decreased funding means a reduced labor force, not to mention the increased stressors on Hawaii's families at risk. This is not an easy decision.

The Honolulu Advisory Board is a wonderful membership of business representatives, large and small, public and private. Economic survival is something near and dear to their hearts. I know I speak for my fellow board members when I say that the board is extremely concerned about the future of our programs, and urges you to do all you can to keep these programs viable.

I wish you well, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of our programs.

On Fee for service as being proposed , we don't know if we can remain open. Group home shelter serves mostly kids who burned out foster homes, don't do well in foster care and homeless or throwaway youth.

As of June 30 2010, 19 of 33 contracts with the State (Office of Youth Services, Dept. of Defense, Dept of Human Services) will come to an end and at this point in time no RFP's have been offered for these services: prevention, independent living/transitional living (mostly for kids exiting foster care or in foster care); outreach to homeless youth. With the cuts in the contract we will probably lay off about half or more of our 86 member full time staff - (I still haven't realized how laying off staff will help the economy)

TRANSMITTAL

DATE: 2-3-10
TO: The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Committee on Health
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguichi, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

FROM: Adriana Ramelli
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: SB2469
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Hearing: 2-4-10 2:15 pm
Committee on Human Services
Committee on Health
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

This transmittal consists of 3 pages including this cover sheet.

Sender: Christine Trecker

Please call 535-7600 if you do not receive all of the pages.



THE SEX ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

A Program of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

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DATE: 02/04/2010

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

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Committee on Health

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

FROM: Adriana Ramelli, Executive Director
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

RE: In support of SB2469
Relating to the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund

Good afternoon Senators Chun-Oakland, Ige and Taniguchi and members of the Committees on Human Services, Health, and Judiciary and Government Operations. My name is Adriana Ramelli and I am the Executive Director of the Sex Abuse Treatment Center (SATC), a program of the Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (KMCWC), an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health.

The SATC supports SB2469 to appropriate moneys from the emergency and budget reserve fund of the State of Hawai'i to maintain adequate levels of support for programs determined to be essential to education, public health, safety, and public welfare. This measure includes funding support for KMCWC/SATC for sexual assault services.

The KMCWC/SATC currently holds the master contract with the State Department of the Attorney General, overseeing the delivery of sexual assault services statewide. The SATC works with the sexual assault programs of each county to ensure that services to victims, their families and support systems are comprehensive, coordinated, accessible and standardized across the state. These services include crisis intervention, mental health counseling, case management, legal systems advocacy and prevention.

Given the severe economic downturn, the State general funds appropriation for statewide sexual assault services has been cut by over 20%. This falls seriously short of the funding necessary to support effective delivery of victim services on Oah'u and the neighbor islands. Without restoration of state funds, sexual assault victims will be negatively impacted as reflected by the following:

- On **Kaua'i**, the sexual assault program is projected to close down one day a week, reducing access to therapy and emergency crisis services;
- On **Mau'i**, the 24/7 crisis hotline will be in operation only 4 days a week and closed on the weekends;

- On **Hawai'i**, reduction in crisis staff will leave an estimated 40-50 victims with no face-to-face care and follow up in the aftermath of an assault;
- On **Oah'u**, crisis counseling in three domestic violence shelters will be eliminated impacting an estimated 150 – 175 women.

These are only a few examples of the range of services that will be terminated. At present, the sexual assault programs are aggressively pursuing other funding sources, both at the local and federal levels. However, given the state's financial situation, there are many other nonprofit social service agencies that are competing for the same shrinking pot of private and government funds.

Comprehensive sexual assault programs benefit Hawai'i by providing access to specialized services when and where they are needed and proactive outreach programs to reduce sex crimes from occurring in the first place.

We urge you to support SB2469. Thank you for your consideration of our funding request to ensure that the people of Hawai'i receive essential sexual assault services.