

Elise E. Kolbrek  
MSWstudent @ UHM  
Waialua, HI  
[Kolbrek@hawaii.edu](mailto:Kolbrek@hawaii.edu)

LATE

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**Senate Committee on Education and Housing and Human Services**  
**Hearing date: Thursday February 18, 2010, at 2:15p.m. in Rm 016**

**Testimony in Support of SB2473: Relating to Housing**

Honorable Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland, Vice-Chair Les Ihara Jr., and Members of the HMS committee. Honorable Chair Norman Sakamob, Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the EDH committee.

My name is Elise Ericka Kolbrek and I am a MSW student at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support of SB 2473**; which allows “grandchildren of elderly housing project residents to temporarily reside with the residents in certain family crisis situations. This bill affords residents evicted for raising grandchildren-in-crisis in their housing project units, priority status to return to project housing.”

SB 2473 is important not only to the children’s lives that are less dramatically disrupted by staying with their grandparents in family crisis situations; instead of going into foster care, but also plays an important role within the community by teaching the importance of Hawaiian *ohana* values. By passing this bill, legislature will be able to positively impact Hawaii’s communities by decreasing homelessness within the *Kupuna* residents. SB 2473 will also decrease violence and crime that takes place when children’s lives are disrupted by being consistently in and out of the foster care system. This bill will accomplish that by keeping children in their *ohana* which can provide a more stable household where the children are less traumatized and affected by the particular family crisis.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.