

SCR 169

&

SR 74



Sen HMS Committee
Thurs, Mar 25, 2010
1:15 pm
Room 16

National Association of Social Workers

Hawaii Chapter

March 24, 2010

TO: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

FROM: Debbie Shimizu, LSW
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SCR 169/SR 74 Requesting the Formation of a Joint Poverty Reduction Task Force-SUPPORT

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is the largest professional organization for social workers in Hawaii.

NASW supports SCR 169/SR74 to establish a Joint Poverty Reduction Task Force.

Thank you for proposing the creation of a task force to: 1) assess current state policies and practices; 2) study and evaluate best policies and practices; and 3) prepare and submit a written report to the Legislature.

During this time of economic crisis, the gap between the haves and have-nots is widening and more individuals are falling into poverty. Policy makers need to educate themselves on current state policies and practices as well as study what other states are doing. Without a comprehensive plan and goal, we will never reduce the number of our citizens living in poverty.

The Task Force is a nice "next step" to the work that the Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Economic Development has already started on asset building. I would like to ask that the task force incorporate the work and recommendations that the Asset Building Task Force just completed in 2009.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.