

From: HUSstimony
Subject: FW: reduction in tuition assistance

From: arizala.excite [mailto:arizala@excite.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 10:12 AM
To: HUSstimony
Subject: reduction in tuition assistance

Dear Director of Human Services Lillian Collier -

Alphabetland Preschool / Alphabetland Preschool LLC has been in the child care business for over 35+ years in Hawaii. There have been numerous children who have attended our preschools because of the tuition assistance that is provided to families who can least afford child care. Young children need a safe and nurturing place to get a good start on their schooling.

Alphabetland understands that this is tough economic times...and that everyone is making sacrifices. However, Alphabetland would like to urge the state of Hawaii to rethink their proposal of cutting their tuition assistance program. Saving money is wonderful but it would come at an indirect cost. Education is a key cornerstone for developing minds. The children would be the ones to suffer the most if parents are not able to afford to keep their children in preschool.

I know that this is a tough decision. Thus, Alphabetland would appreciate that this matter be given serious consideration before there is any final decision. Thank you.

Aloha and Mahalo.

Alphabetland Preschool LLC
Kyle Arizala
Member

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Angela Thomas
Phone: 808-997-1228
E-Mail: athomas@fofhawaii.org

Date: December 4, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Angela Thomas and I am the Program Leader for Baby Steps to Stronger Big Island Families, an initiative whose mission is to help all keiki on Hawaii Island to be happy, healthy, and to thrive by supporting families, strengthening practitioners and engaging communities.

Our Baby STEPS council, advisors to our initiative, is opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14 - the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

These cuts will be devastating for our families, not only for those receiving subsidy, but for other children enrolled in preschools that may be forced to close or consolidate teachers and classrooms. Our preschools and family child care homes are already at risk:

- Many schools are under enrolled because of the economy and the number of families with one or more parent out of work.
- Add to this the tardiness of the Arbor subsidy payments and many schools are actually having to front teacher pay from other funding sources while they wait sometimes for 2 months to receive their reimbursement check.
- Now, with the proposed DHS reductions, many parents will be faced with larger co-pays than they can afford and will have to take their children out of school.

The impact of these changes will resound through our entire community! Not only will children miss out on learning that will support school readiness, but many parents will have to leave their jobs. Those who cannot afford to stop working may be forced to make less than desirable choices for their children's care. I personally know of a three year-old who was left in his father's truck in the employee parking lot of a resort while he worked an 8-hour shift! His father was desperate.

In terms of teachers, most schools will have to lay off quite a few – in the case of a Honokaa preschool, if they close there will be 6 highly skilled teachers without jobs. In Kona, one school may have to lay off 11 of their 15 teachers.

One of our council's focuses has been on professional development for our early childhood practitioners. We have invested resources in training both formal and informal. Losing so

many trained early childhood professionals as a result of these changes will be devastating! And, once these teachers leave, they will surely not return to our field.

Businesses will also be affected since many parents will opt to leave their jobs and many more will be less than focused at work as they worry about children left in the care of others outside licensed, professionally operated early childhood environments.

I also worry about an increase in child abuse. Economically stressed parents will now be faced with even more of a financial burden, patchy child care options, or loss of a job. This can spell disaster for young children who are bearing the brunt of these changes in other ways already.

I feel like we have fallen down the rabbit hole in Alice in Wonderland. Many of the arguments I have made were made many years ago before we recognized the value and necessity of child care as an employee benefit and preschools as a child's best option for school readiness. Here we are again making the same arguments to those who should know better.

We continue to say our children are our future. If we truly believe that, we need to stop sacrificing our children, prioritize education at all levels and make budget cuts in other areas less devastating to our future!

I have provided my contact information and would be happy to provide you more information.

Sincerely,

Angela Thomas



CHILDCARE BUSINESS COALITION

Committed to Quality Education

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

From: Christina Cox, Liaison
Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii
808-941-9414 ext. 25 ccox@kcaapreschools.org

The Cole Academy

KCAA Preschools
of Hawaii

Kama'aina Kids

Rainbow Schools

Seagull Schools

Waianae Coast Early
Childhood Services

Waikiki Community
Center

Date: 12/4/09

RE: Proposed Rule Changes to HAR Chapter 17-798.2 CHILD CARE SERVICES

The Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii serves more than 4,000 children, ages 6 weeks-5 years, in more than 40 preschools on three islands. Approximately 25% of our students are participants in the federally funded Childcare Connection program or the State-funded Preschool Open Doors program. As a group, we account for almost 50% of the 2,300 students enrolled in private preschools statewide, who participate in the subsidy programs. As a group, we are committed to providing quality early education and care that is accessible to all children. We have worked side-by-side with DHS over the years to help ensure that Hawaii's most at-risk children have equal access to quality preschools.

We have reviewed the proposed rule changes and while we appreciate the fact that the Department is not proposing changes to the actual rates for center-based care, we are deeply concerned about the proposed changes to the *Child Care Gross Income Eligibility Limits and Sliding Fee Scale*. The proposed changes move the scale from a three-tier to a ten-tier scale, effectively increasing the co-payments for the majority of participants. After conducting an analysis of the new scale we have projected that the average family will have an increased co-pay of between \$145-\$500 per month. This is not a burden that any family, much less a low-income family, can be expected to bear during these challenging economic times.

Liaison:
Christina Cox
(808) 941-9414

We understand and appreciate the fact that the Department may have a lack of adequate funds to support the programs over time. **We ask that the Department work with the Childcare Business Coalition, as it has in the past, to find a remedy for currently enrolled children.** We cannot support a policy that will push children into unlicensed care or force their parents to quit their jobs due to lack of care for their child.

156C Hamakua Drive Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Research has repeatedly shown that low-income children enrolled in high quality early education programs benefit the most from a quality preschool experience, providing society with the greatest return on investment. In addition, it should be noted that if a family is unable to afford the increased co-payment which the Department is currently proposing to institute in the middle of the school year, and is then unable to find alternate care, the parent will then have to quit their job. Many of the recipients are single parents and this job loss may force them onto the welfare rolls, resulting in additional costs to the taxpayer.

We are concerned that should a preschool be able to secure funds to help families by providing some form of limited scholarship that based on current policy, this is then calculated as income and the subsidy is then further reduced due to “increased income”. We would ask that the Department revise the income eligibility calculation to exclude in-house tuition assistance.

To make matters worse, the families and preschool providers will be required to work with the current third party contractor, ARBOR, for all Childcare Connection participants.

ARBOR has consistently proven itself to be incapable of managing the Childcare Connection program. Childcare providers and parents statewide have repeatedly reported on ARBOR’s abysmal performance, which has negatively impacted so many children’s ability to attend preschool. As previously reported to DHS BESSD we have had repeated instances of lost client files, a lack of capacity to handle phone inquiries from current clients resulting in delayed or denied payments, lack of communication between ARBOR employees, within their own office, resulting in client files which are in the possession of one employee not being accessible to another, who then tells the parent she does not have the file and that the parent therefore must resubmit all paperwork again. We cannot begin to imagine what will happen when ARBOR is asked to manage a 10-tier sliding fee scale.

Childcare Business Coalition Recommendations:

We understand that the State of Hawaii is struggling and that there simply may not be enough funds to continue either program at the current levels of funding. Therefore we respectfully request:

- That the Department of Human Services make currently enrolled children exempt and work with the Governor to identify supplementary funding to enable currently enrolled children to complete the school year. This would enable parents to make alternate plans as they will have been given advance notice of the increase. It would also give children time to adjust in the transition to a new setting.

We suggest an effective date of January 1, 2010 for new students and that the current rules continue to apply to currently enrolled students through May 31, 2010.

- That the proposed draft of the rules be amended to exclude in-house tuition assistance provided by the preschool as part of the family’s income calculation.

- That DHS require that ARBOR, the third party contractor that manages Childcare Connection, bring in an additional supervisor to oversee the transition to the new sliding fee scale to better ensure that children, parents and providers are not further impacted by the ineptness of this third party contractor.
- That DHS put the Childcare Connection contract out to bid as soon as current contract language allows and that, in the interim, immediate action be taken as noted above to ensure that ARBOR manages the transition with some level of competence. We believe that any penalty clauses included in the contract should be levied as a motivation to ARBOR to strive to improve performance. The fact that taxpayer dollars are going to support such an inadequate level of service is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Luke Achay [dukesoahu@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 12:27 PM
To: HUSTestimony

My name is Jan Achay, director of Creative Day Preschool, Inc. Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. This school has been in business for over 30 years. It only takes basic math skills and common sense to understand that the cuts being proposed will put skills out of business. Do the powers that be not understand the simplest of business practices? The cuts to this little school alone will result in 10-13 teachers being laid off, resulting in parents losing their jobs (these people are on a program because they do not make enough to pay on their own) now they are collecting unemployment, their children do not reap the benefits of a school situation (sometimes very young "latch-key" children are now home alone), which dominoes down to requiring welfare and state services because those parents have lost any health care they had, now possibly they are losing their homes, cars, etc. The schools are now NOT paying HMSA insurance for their employees, not paying huge excise taxes, not able to keep up with insurance premiums for their schools, etc. These cuts of child assistance will result in costs to the state that are 5 times the amount of the once a month help. The lack of common sense here is shocking!!! Aside from all the costs created from dropping the once a month child care payment is this nonsense of "RETRO" monies being asked for.....NONSENSE! Does the state not understand that those monies were used to operate a business. Payroll, rent, taxes (many types) insurances, food, utilities, maintenance.....the list is endless. Those monies are gone trying to keep school doors open!!!! Preschools run on a very fine line as it is....these is no money to pay back anything, anywhere!!!! In summary, the costs to drop assistance to the families will cost the state 5 times more and create hardship beyond repair. Jan Achay, Creative Day Preschool

December 3, 2009
Committee on Human Services
Legislature,
State of Hawaii

Dear Committee Members:

While I will not be able to attend the DHS briefing to better understand the rationale and impact of proposed subsidy reductions for families, I do appreciate the opportunity to have my voice heard as you carefully consider this move. My concern is that serious reductions will have three significant impacts on our State from which we may never recover.

The most obvious affect will be on the children and their families. Given the potential increase in costs, it appears almost impossible that families will be in a position to continue their current child care arrangements. For many seeking alternative care, if that is even possible, will mean lowering standards of quality and losing the comfort of knowing their children are being well-cared for and their educational needs are being addressed. And, of course, the decrease in subsidy for some will mean they are forced to give up their jobs because no alternative is affordable and it has been the subsidy which allowed them to work.

A second obvious impact is most likely to be on the child care facilities themselves. A decrease in children attending is a given if subsidies are reduced as planned with the result that some will have to close or decrease the services offered. The overall result is that at a time when we are seeking to improve our early childhood education programs through quality rating and expand access, we are inclined to see a decline in both number and quality of available programs. Related to that is the question of teacher qualifications and quality in a declining marketplace.

The third impact is on our State both today and in the future. Research demonstrates conclusively that quality early childhood educational programs increase success in school leading to increased graduation rates, decreases in retention and remediation rates, work place success and positive community participation. The economic impact for communities and States is in dollars both saved and earned as well as the development of capacity in the workforce---a serious concern for Hawaii. By reducing the number of children able to take advantage of early childhood programs with subsidy losses, we will be ignoring what the research tells us and we will be once again denying young children are a priority for our State. The longer we fail to accept our responsibility to our *keiki*, the more we risk an unsustainable future for Hawaii.

I urge you to consider carefully how we might avoid these deep-cut subsidy reductions and let the people of Hawaii know that children are our top priority.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, EdD
Early Learning Council, Chair

From: Jessica S. Luning [jessica.ewaplains@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 2:27 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Hearing Date Dec. 4 11:30am

To: Honorable Chair Suzanne Chun Oakland and Human Service Committee

From: Jessica S. Luning, Chief Financial Officer, Ewa Plains Enrichment Programs

Date: December 1, 2009

Re: Admin Rule: 17-798.2-12 and 14 Child Care Subsidy Funding cuts

Dear Ms. Chun Oakland,

20 years ago I sat in a committee room very similar to this one, it was before you and committee members and I was in a very bad situation. I was living in a homeless shelter, with three small preschool children and had a huge childcare debt. At that time my children were age 2, 3 and 4 and my preschool bill to Seagull was \$900.00 but my total AFDC income was \$800.00. I was enrolled in college, living in a homeless transitional shelter (Hawaii Ecumenical) and had a \$ 2,200.00 balance due to the Seagulls preschool that was in the homeless shelter.

I was just starting out my life many of the Human Services Committee members visited my living quarters and took heart to my requests for funding for childcare. The legislator wiped away the debt to Seagulls and started to fund childcare. That funding changed my life. We need to go forward, not backwards. Today, I own and operate a small private preschool that teaches reading and writing to three and four year old children and is accredited by the NAEYC. Last year, I was able to give 41,000.00 to 65 families in scholarships. Our preschool is private and we only have one child who is on Hawaii State assistance, however, one child is just as valuable as any.

I submitted testimony to DHS about my concern for families who entered agreements to get off of welfare/ADFC/TAN and who took exiting bonuses now that they are working and getting ahead. These families had no idea the funding for childcare would be cut when they made their budgets and entered into legal agreements. I know for a fact, that two of my six employees will not be able to fulfill their work commitments and I will have to let them go. It is sad to think they will be collecting full time unemployment benefits and lose their jobs to others who may have more advantages in life. I would love to keep them employed; however, they would have to be at work on time and daily to keep the safety count for the children in each of my preschool classrooms. I am sure similar situations will take place for many employers.

These families are willing work, have good ideas (such as wanting to get off of assistance) and love their children. These families are working but are economically challenged. Please do not do what happened to me 22 years ago - reward and encourage people not to work, penalize the working and create a system for failure. Please do not cut child care funding for those who are working, the requirements are already very strict to even qualify.

Children who are not ready for kindergarten slow down the learning and teaching curb for the children who have been in structured educational settings. These funding cuts will ultimately affect every child, every classroom – our national averages and world placements scores.

Education and children are the areas that we as a society need to say... NOT HERE, cut somewhere else.

Jessica Sanchez Luning
Chief Executive Officer
Ewa Plains Enrichment Programs llc

Where Families Unify!

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Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Hearing date:
Friday,
December 4,
2009, 11:30 a.m.
Senate & House
Human Services
Committees,
Room 329

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Representative John Mizuno, Chair
SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Friday, December 4, 2009, 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Chair Chun Oakland and Chair Mizuno,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. We understand the state's current fiscal problems and the cost of doing "business as usual." However, we do not support the proposed amendments due to the severe effect they will have on the families of vulnerable children as well as on the foundation of Hawaii's child care services.

Our reasons to oppose the amendments are as follows:

1. Hawaii's needy families cannot afford a steep unexpected increase to their co-pay. When reviewing families of 4 **with incomes below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), meaning the children** would receive free or reduced lunch if in kindergarten – and who attend a center-based preschool with tuition of \$600/month – we found the following:
 - Co-pay for families at 100% FPL will go from \$0 to \$120 a month.
 - Co-pay for families at 175% FPL jumps from \$120 to \$420 monthly; a 350% spike.
2. Almost 9,000 families will be affected by these changes. Because the changes will affect not only preschools but also license-exempt care, families will have few alternatives. Locating 9,000 family members who can take care of these children will be challenging.
3. Programs and home providers cannot absorb this loss of revenue. Already suffering from the contractor Arbor's late payments, a number of programs across the state may close their doors, or at a minimum reduce staff and close classrooms.
4. Mildred Warner, noted economist from Cornell University, stated in her 2009 issue paper *Recession, Stimulus, and the Child Care Sector: Understanding Economic Dynamics, Calculating Impact* states:

It is important that child care administrators think of their role in the economic recovery as preserving the formal child care system that is a critical social infrastructure for economic development. (Hawaii's allows \$5.1 billion in annual revenue.) This means subsidizing center sites even if parents are unemployed so that

children have consistency of care and centers do not close their doors. If, instead, administrators choose the cheaper option of supporting more family and informal care, they will contribute to creating a sector that is more hidden below the waterline after the recession than before. States also may wish to structure their stimulus funds to encourage more family providers to become licensed. It is not in the interest of the economy or of the child care sector to continue to have the majority of care outside the formal counted economy.

Coordinators and PATCH conducted a phone and email survey to ascertain the effect of these changes. The results confirmed what we expected. The coordinators from each county have submitted testimony today which reflects the situation in their county.

To summarize from programs interviewed:

Kauai: 33 or almost 1/3 are in danger of leaving the programs; 30 children have developmental delays; 9 staff may lose their jobs; 2 classes in danger of closing.

Hawai'i: 482 children; 232 on child care subsidy; expect 194 to leave; 123 at risk. Of 12 programs only one did not plan on letting staff go and/or at least closing a classroom.

Statewide: Approximately, 2300 children who receive subsidies and are enrolled in preschools will be effected= 13% of all children enrolled in licensed preschool programs.

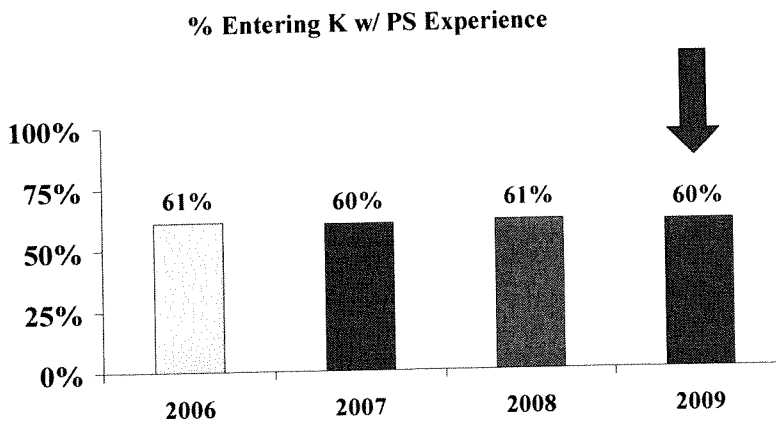
5. Many parents will need to adjust their work schedules or stop work or training completely. One month's notice is not sufficient for such a great change.
6. Work and training stoppage may cause a greater burden on the state and business through greater utilization of other funds such as unemployment and food stamps – than the amount saved by not paying \$350 or \$450 a month in child care subsidy. Also child care purchases stimulate other industries as workers spend wages.

Economy Already Impacting Hawai'i's Keiki

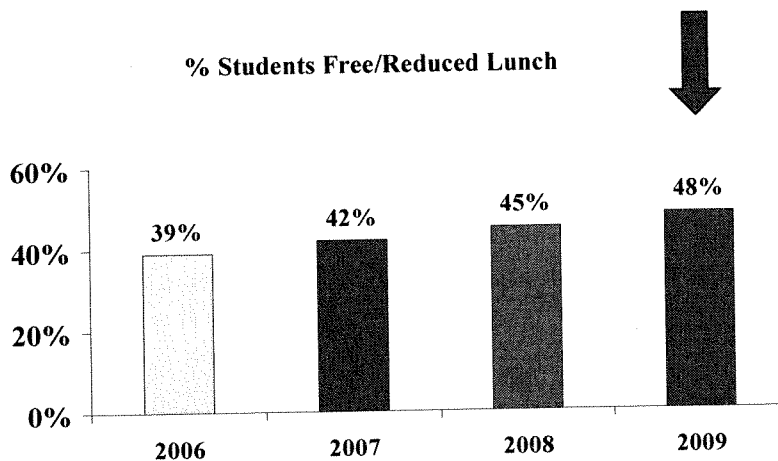
We believe Hawaii's declining economy is already negatively impacting our keiki. This year's Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment shows a **decrease from 61% of our kindergarten children attending preschool prior starting kindergarten in 2008 to 60% in 2009.**

Additionally, the **number of kindergarten children qualifying for free or reduced lunch increased from 45% in 2008 to 48% in 2009.** These proposed increases in parent co-pays will rob more of our keiki of the opportunity to attend preschool and build a solid foundation for their and our state's future.

Children Ready for School



HSSRA Schools' Early Education Profile



Economic Investment for Hawaii's Future:

Research has shown that state investment in high-quality early learning programs is money well spent. High-quality early education supports children's cognitive, social, and emotional development; increases their school readiness, improves their chances of graduating from high school; and enhances their prospects for the future. Additionally, these public investments yield long-term savings to taxpayers and state and federal governments in the form of reduced spending on education, crime, health, and welfare, and increased tax revenues. While this increase in parent co-pays will save money in the short-term, the cost will be to our young

children and our state's economic future. In our 2005 study, *The Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Hawai'i*, reported that the early education and care industry:

1. Provides nearly 9,400 jobs; generates \$241 million revenue; and supports \$5.1 billion in parents' earnings because their children are in care.
2. Ensures a strong economy in the future by preparing children to be skilled, productive workers who can meet future labor force demands.
3. Enables employers to attract and retain employees and increase their productivity.

Do you know that in our 21st Century Economy, our children will not have to compete with children from the rest of the country, but with their international counterparts too? Is it little wonder that China invests from 500% to over 650% more in early education than post-secondary education according to a presentation given by Michael Milken of the Milken Institute, and that China is projected to be the world's #1 economy by the Year 2050. **Increasing parent co-pays and cutting our children's opportunity to early childhood education will be disastrous to our children, our state, and our economic future.**

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. If changes must occur, allow programs and parents at least a 6 month window to make adjustments to their work, expenditures and staffing.
2. Do not make changes until the new school year – abrupt transitions such as these have been shown to affect future learning and school readiness.
3. Reduce the amount of co-pay required. In the future reduce the number of subsidies available supporting those most needy. These changes burden those most vulnerable who have less resources or support system to rely upon.

Furlough Fridays met with outrage. K-12 children were the brunt of budget decisions which did not consider learning needs. This amendment deserves similar passion and collaborative problem-solving. **Parents cannot afford the co-pay and will be forced to take their children out of their early learning program – not just one day a week. These early years are crucial to school readiness, success and to our state – we must find reasonable solutions.** We appreciate your concern for Hawai'i's young children and know you will do your best to ensure the needs of families and children are addressed.



HAWAI'I MONTESSORI, INC.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

Thursday, November 30, 2009

Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Services
Chair Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Members of the Committees on Human Services
Sent via Email to hustestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: The proposed rule changes to the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17-798.2-14.

Aloha,

I write this with a heavy heart. I understand and appreciate that we are in an economic whirlwind and everyone must help in some way to get through these trying times, however I have a real concern that there is the potential to place the burden of correcting the State's shortfall on the backs of our youngest citizens. I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Currently there are approximately 88,000 children under the age of 4 in the state of Hawaii. There are approximately 41,000 two-parent families and 22,000 single parent families who are currently in the labor force. This then means that there are approximately 63,000 children under the age of 6 needing childcare (US Census Bureau Data, 2006). Of the 63,000 children, 37% of the children are being cared for in licensed childcare centers/homes and the remaining 63% are in unlicensed/unknown circumstances (State Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, 2006). In these, the most important years of a child's overall development, children who are in the "underground" child care environments often do not receive the stimulation a young child needs and craves.

"At birth a baby's brain contains 100 billion neurons, roughly as many nerve cells as there are stars in the Milky Way."¹ Continuing brain research shows that, while we start out with a brain cell allotment determined by our genetic heritage and physical birthing, the connections between the cells are made and reinforced by the opportunities in early learning environments. Investing in early childhood education makes good economic sense. It has been demonstrated that taxpayers receive a four-to-one return on their investment. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) at Rutgers University published the results of a longitudinal study on the impact of quality early childhood education. The study followed a group of very young children from low-income families who were offered a high quality program that included full-day, year-round care with well-trained teachers and small class sizes. This study followed the

¹ [Time](#), J. Madeline Nash, February 2, 1997, pp. 50



HAWAI'I MONTESSORI, INC.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING

children's progress in school and into early adulthood, charting their achievements both in the classroom and in the workforce. According to the study, children who participated in the program tended to earn higher salaries as adults, are less likely to require special education programs, and be less likely to smoke as adults. The study also showed that the mothers of these children earned more in their lifetimes and their children were also more likely to be better wage earners in their lifetime.

Between the campuses that I run I have 20 families who have childcare subsidies. Many of them can barely make ends meet and if they have the added burden of having to pay even \$50.00 month they will undoubtedly need to pull their children out of our programs. If this occurs I will need to begin to lay off staff who then will have to go on unemployment and become stressed because they cannot make ends meet, will default on their obligations and so the vicious circle begins.

As our population grows we have seen the increasing need for licensed childcare facilities. The emphasis is always to keep the family intact and in parental care, which in most cases, is optimum, however, with the rapid increase of cost of living here in Hawai'i, children who are in unlicensed facilities are placed in environments where they receive the limited attention of a stressed, unemployed parent or relative. Financial stress can lead to many other social ills such as substance abuse and domestic violence. This diminishes the home's ability to provide a satisfactory learning environment for young children. Would it not be better if these young children be in a safe learning environment where the parents feel secure in the knowledge that their children will be well looked after? It is common knowledge that when working parents have their children in a place that they know is an excellent quality care setting, it allows them to concentrate on their work/job responsibilities, therefore making them more productive employees and community members.

We have worked so hard these many years to bring awareness to the importance of early childhood education. These subsidies deserving children with an opportunity to be able be at par with those of more affluent families. If these changes occur, the children of low income families will be more disadvantaged and it will become harder for them to "catch up" because the opportunity was taken away from them.

Please consider this matter very thoroughly. Find other solutions to recover the losses besides yet again putting education on the chopping block. I have provided my contact information and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Angeline Geldhof,
Executive Director

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From: HUS testimony
Subject: FW: AMENDED TESTIMONY

From: Glenn & Kathy Oshiro [mailto:gso@warmlava.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 8:53 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: AMENDED TESTIMONY

AMENDED TESTIMONY FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTERS 17-798.2-14

To Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair:

My name is Kathy Oshiro and I am the Board Treasurer, a volunteer, and one of the Founders of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, a private, non-profit preschool in Honokaa, and the ONLY full time preschool serving the drastically underserved Hamakua Coast of the Big Island. This is my amended testimony, previously submitted.

Our concerns are that these "hearings" are a waste of time, just for affect and show, that the Governor's mind, and Ms. Kohler's mind, has been made up. The decision has been made. Every indication lends that way.

For our part at Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, an incredible amount of time, and money, has been spent with this threat that poverty-level families will irreversibly suffer from the affects of increasing their co-pays for childcare, at any amount, not just "some amount". I personally went to the "hearing" on 11/23/09, believing that, in our democratic process, I would be "heard". My being retired due to disability, several other rural preschools asked me to represent them, as they were unable to attend, either due to time constraints (they had to teach), or financial constraints (no room in their budgets). At my own cost, I attended the hearing on 11/23/09 and fund nothing but a tape recorder in a side room, when there was not room for others like me, in the other room that also had nothing but another tape recorder. Ms. Kohler, nor her committee members, bothered to attend our "hearing".

After our "hearing", I find it hard to believe that Ms. Kohler, and her committee, actually sat down through 2 hours of tape recordings from one room as well as 2 hours of tape recordings of the second room, while we had all cried our hearts out, hoping to be heard, trying to explain the major, irreversible repercussions that the proposed amendments would have on the real lives of our working poor. I also find it hard to believe that Ms. Kohler and her committee read every and all written testimony submitted that day. Is this truly the democratic process?

An additional cost of these threats that our poverty-level families are going to be horribly affected by this Proposal: our preschool will suffer further (if we remain open) because we missed the grant deadline for an Atherton Grant due on 12/1/09, as we were too involved dealing with Ms. Kohler's Proposal. We had to chose our priorities, and our grant was not submitted. The State depends on

preschools our seeking independent funding. Yet, because of the State, we missed a great/critical opportunity for independent funding for our little preschool because of this Proposal.

And finally, one of our families left our school on 12/1/09, all in tears. They had received Open Doors. They had recently both been laid off, yet all along seeking new jobs, as their child could still attend preschool while they were seeking new employment. Living with family here, they faced the uncertainty that they would have preschool reimbursements for their child, should they find jobs, and they were forced to make the horribly difficult decision to move to the Mainland. By the way, these were not "Mainland-transplants" but a local family, born and raised here in Hawaii. This is what the damage current Proposal has done to our ohana. Irreplaceable damage. Imagine the further damage this Proposal will cause should it actually pass.

Our parents would like to know what is going on. Should they give their employers 2-weeks notice that they need to quit their jobs on 1/1/2010? Rural preschools would like to know what is going on. Should we be giving 2-weeks notice to our teachers that they no longer have a job as of 1/1/2010?

Where did the money go? Why so short notice? Is this how you run a government? Is this how you run anything? Where did the money supposedly go?

Sincerely,

Kathy Oshiro

Board Treasurer

Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool

**House Committee on Human Services
Senate Committee on Human Services**

**Informational Briefing: Friday, December 4, 2009
11:30 a.m.**

**IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES HAWAII CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM, HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES, SECTIONS 17-798.2-12 AND 17-798.2-14**

Chair Mizuno, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Brower, Vice Chair Ihara, and
Committee Members:

My name is George Zweibel. I live and practice law in Honoka'a on the Island of Hawai'i. I am also a member of the board of directors of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, a private nonprofit preschool serving families on the Hamakua Coast. I also know families in this community who would be affected by the changes the Department of Human Services (DHS) has proposed if they are implemented.

Simply put, the proposed reduction in child care subsidies would be a disaster for most families who have children attending, or who would in the future attend, Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool as well as their counterparts around the state. In this community, about 80% of those attending Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool have low or moderate incomes and depend on the child care subsidy. The proposed changes would raise their tuition by up to \$450 or more, quadrupling their present payment, which is unaffordable. Some may forego buying food (or making rent or mortgage payments) or other necessities so they can keep their children in preschool. Others would have to quit their jobs to stay home with their children. In every case, the child would lose the well documented benefits of early learning in a safe and nurturing environment while their parents are at work. No good can come of this.

Certainly, the budget shortfall is serious and must be addressed. However, the economic downturn is hardest on low and moderate income families who are already struggling to survive. The worst way to save money is to do so at the expense of our precious children. No one should have to make the kind of choices for their families that the proposed child care subsidy reduction would force upon those who already have the least. For these reasons, I respectfully oppose the changes DHS has proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



KA HALE O NA KEIKI PRESCHOOL

A private, non-profit preschool serving the families of the Hamakua Coast

45-3668 Honoka'a-Waipio Road, Honoka'a, Hawaii 96727
 Phone & Fax (808) 775-9870 eMail: pualani_coiburn@yahoo.com
 Nationally Accredited by N.E.C.P.A.

FAX TO: *Rep. John M. Mizuno, Chair*
 FAX FROM: Ka Hale O Na Preschool *Rep. Tom Brower, V.C*

OUR FAX #: 808-775-9870

DATE: 12/2/2009

TOTAL # OF PAGES: *17*

REGARDING: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Please find to follow Testimony that our parents (and our teachers) have asked us to FAX to you, to be part of the Hearing on December 4, 2009. Many of our parents do not access to a computer or to email so they have asked us to assist them with the submission of their testimony. We have to FAX these testimonies, as our school does not have a scanner allowing us to send the testimonies via email. Our apologies for this inconvenience.

We are also sending a copy of the petition that our parents signed, that was submitted at Ms. Kohler's meeting on November 23rd. We are submitting this to you now as we are concerned that our petition has not been considered since Ms. Kohler did not attend the meeting, nor did any of her committee members as far as we know.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

For the keiki, we thank you.

Kathy Oshiro,
Board Treasurer

Ka Hale O Na Keiki Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

To: Representative John M Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-1., the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. We both work but the jobs available on the big Island don't pay well. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

The reason we are able to receive any help from Childcare Connection subsidies is because we are a poverty-level family. How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further.

We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: KEIKILANI K. BADON

Signature: 

Mailing Address: P.O. BOX 676 HONOKAA, HI 96727

Telephone #: 808-960-3526

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

The reason we are able to receive any help from Childcare Connection subsidies is because we are a poverty-level family. How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further.

Our rural community has so little resources already. We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day. Don't do this to my family. Don't do this to my child. Don't do this to our community. No increase, please. Don't be the one who closes our preschool!


I am a parent of a preschooler and I had to send this to you via FAX as I do not have access to a computer.

If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family. I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. Don't do this, PLEASE!

I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Jessica Young

Signature: 

Mailing Address: PO Box 1928 Honokaa HI 96727

Telephone # 775-8235

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because we are the working poor. We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago! They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you..

We want our child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I don't have a computer. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Brittney M. Martinez

Signature: 

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2046 Honokaa, HI 96727

Telephone # 808-938-8851

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because we are the working poor. We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you..

We want our child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I don't have a computer. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Cheyenne Tabac

Signature: Cheyenne Tabac

Mailing Address: PO BOX 1051 HONOKAA, HI 96727

Telephone # 808-775-9350

To: Representative John M Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-1,. the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. We both work but the jobs available on the big Island don't pay well. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

The reason we are able to receive any help from Childcare Connection subsidies is because we area poverty-level family. How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further.

We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Rose Ann Domingo

Signature: Rose Ann Domingo

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 84 Honokaa, HI 96727

Telephone # 719-9163

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I don't have email. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! I don't have extra money! My child attends Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool here in Honokaa, and the school cannot afford to financially help my family further. I know they struggle every day just to stay open and the teachers are just wonderful but they get paid horribly, just like me. I wish you could see the progress my child has made.


Why is the State punishing me and my child just because I have a low-paying job and that's all I can get? Don't you understand that I want better for my child? I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send my child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when I am working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because I am the working poor. We are all so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my I beg you.

I want my child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in my co-pay because I wouldn't be able to afford preschool for my child. If you increase my co-pay, I will have to quit my job to care for my child. Then, what? Welfare?

Sincerely,

Name: Francine C. Anderson

Signature: 

Mailing Address: Po Box 415 Honokaa HI 96727

Telephone # 217-7133

P.O. Box 1726
Honokaa, HI 96727

December 1, 2009

The Honorable Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Ms. Lingle:

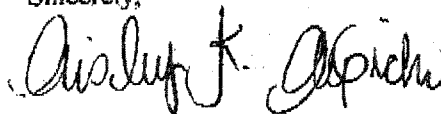
I am writing with the concern of the proposed contribution decrease for local families receiving Child Care and Preschool subsidies. As an early childhood educator I observe and guide our keiki and their ohana by fostering their health, well-being, and future, allowing them to develop a productive and responsible citizenship. As someone who supports education of our young, I oppose to the State decreasing education subsidies for Hawai'i's families. Decreasing monthly subsidies would affect our keiki's current and future society, as well as add more to the unemployment and welfare system.

Decreasing monthly subsidies means stealing from our keiki's education. Early education is a big role in building a foundation to community and economic development, as well as being the base of a successful society. Early childhood settings provide the right conditions to nurture the child's development. These settings also promote cognitive development and social and emotional growth, as they enter into kindergarten under the standards of the No Child Left Behind Act. With out an early education we will be adding to an already mad and violent world where our children will be easily influenced into drugs and crime, costing the State more to fix the problem.

Decreasing monthly subsidies also means adding to the unemployment rate and to Hawaii's welfare system. With the economic recession, families are already on a fixed income. By decreasing monthly subsidies, families will be forced to disenroll their child (ren) from preschools around the State. For many, they may be forced to quit their jobs to provide child care for their children at home. With enrollments dropping in preschools, programs will be forced to minimize staff, or shut down, causing the unemployment rate to increase. As a single mother, I too live on a fixed income. Without a job, I will not be able to afford my house, pay for my bills, and to provide food for my family. This will possibly cause me to go on welfare as there are minimum jobs available in our State.

I am asking for you to please reconsider this proposal on decreasing early education subsidies for local families as it will cause a negative chain reaction to various communities around the state. Early education guides our children to becoming our future community leaders. We worry about our children's future and what they are to become of it that we forget that they are already "someone" today.

Sincerely,



Aisley K. Alpiche

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter because I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

The possible child care connections state cuts will affect not only the children and their families, but the preschool teachers and staff. My name is Paula Seguerre and I am a full time teacher at Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool in Honokaa, on the Big Island of Hawaii. I have been working full time for the past 3 years while going to college part-time to fulfill my AS degree in Early Childhood Education. After achieving my AS degree in spring 2007 I transferred to the University of West Oahu to continue my studies in ECED to achieve my goal of getting my Bachelors degree in ECED, which I am still presently taking classes for. The Preschool I am working for is a non-profit private school that provides care for children on the Hamakua Coast. Many of our parents are working parents and college parents trying to better their lives. Having the CCC funding cut or the parent's portion increased will leave the parents with no choice but to take their children out of preschool because they just don't have the money to afford it. This will result in the closure of our school because we would not have any children to bring in tuition. The percent of our children who attend our preschool that are all supported by CCC is 90%. That leaves us with 10% children who would supply tuition funds. With very few children being able to attend, our school will have no choice but to layoff our teachers who work so hard to educate and care for these children as well as their families. It saddens me as a teacher, because I have worked so hard to achieve my degree while working so I can better teach and nourish children, while struggling at the same time to be able to pay for my college expenses. It was my goal to be able to teach children and to graduate with a Bachelors degree in ECED. If there is an increase in the parents co-pay, then I will most likely be left with out a job, leading me to withdraw from college. Everyone thinks this only affects the children, but it affects the teachers and their families leaving them with no funds. In today's society, the economy is already at a bend where people are facing many hardships. The economy has already affected our school forcing our school to layoff an employee. We as teachers are doing everything we can to keep our school in operation so everyone can have food on the table. In result of the bad economy, we as teachers at our school have already lost benefits due to lack of school funding. Now as a teacher, I have no dental, which leaves me with no dental care because the prices for non-insured patients are ridiculously out of reach. If I paid for my own dental, it would take my whole paycheck to fix a tooth. Another hardship I am facing with this is my medical situations. I have had health situations that have me visiting the doctor quite often. My next worry is my eye surgery that is scheduled to happen in March of 2010. If the proposal takes effect and I become unemployed, I will not be able to go through with the surgery since I will have no medical insurance, thus leaving me with an aching and bothersome eye. Another important worry is what will happen to the innocent children? Where will they go? What will the parents and teachers do? How will they have income to keep food on the table? I along with others am begging, please don't pass the proposal to increase or cut the new proposed co-payment rates for families. This would

result in an overflow of families with no food on the table. It's a scary thought and we don't want this to happen. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to provide you with more information if needed to facilitate your decision making.

Thank you very much,

Paula Seguetre



P.O Box 76
Ookala HI 96774

Cell: 808-937-8669

2

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Preschool children should not be denied a decent beginning to their education just because the State has failed to create a sustainable education system over the past 10-20 years.

If the co-pay is increased the preschool will close, teachers will become unemployed, and all this will affect other businesses because local spending will go down. How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance the State's budget? That's not right! I know our preschool struggles every day just to stay open and the teachers are wonderful but they get paid horribly, just like me. I wish you could see the progress my child has made.

The State should be paying more for subsidies so our preschool can pay our teachers better.

Where will our teachers at Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool find jobs? Why is the State punishing me and my child just because I have a low-paying job and that's all I can get? Don't you understand that I want better for my child? I don't have extra money! You wanted me to email this to you but I cannot even afford email!

If I cannot send my child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when I am working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Don't take preschool away from us just because I am the working poor. Please let my child continue preschool.

What am I supposed to do, go on welfare? I want my child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in my co-pay because I wouldn't be able to afford preschool for my child. If you increase my co-pay, I will have to quit my job to care for my child.

Sincerely,

Name: Heidi Wigman

Signature: Heidi Wigman

Mailing Address: PO Box 2211

Telephone #: (808) 989-0493

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because we are the working poor. We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago! They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you..

We want our child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I don't have a computer. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Nancy Capriano

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Mailing Address: PO Box 6039 Kaimukela, HI 96743

Telephone # 808-930-0329

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Representative Mizuno:

I am a parent of a preschooler and I apologize that I had to send this to you via FAX as I do not have access to a computer, (as many parents do not also).

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Please know that I am totally against any increase of co-pay amounts. To increase co-pay would mean food off my family's table.

Please, my family begs you. Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool cannot afford to financially help my family further. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day. Don't do this to my family. Don't do this to my child. Don't do this to our community. No increase, please.

If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family. I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. Don't do this.

I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Tiffany Santiago

Signature: *Tiffany Santiago*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1233

NOTOKO O HI 96727

Telephone # 775-0215

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because we are the working poor. We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you..

We want our child to succeed!! I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I don't have a computer. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: Dawn Cordeiro

Signature: 

Mailing Address: PO Box 2012 Honokaa, HI 96727

Telephone # 808-960-5832

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send our child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when we are working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because we are the working poor. We are so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my family begs you..

We want our child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in our co-pay because we wouldn't be able to afford preschool for our child. If you increase our co-pay, one of us will have to quit our job to care for our child.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool, where my child attends preschool here in Honokaa, cannot afford to financially help my family further. I wish you could see the progress my child has made, every day.

I don't have a computer. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Name: IRENE RUTH CUMLAT

Signature: 

Mailing Address: 44-160 PAAMHAU ST HONOKAA HI 96727

Telephone # 808-3459103

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I don't have email. I have provided my contact information below and would be happy to give you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance your budget? That's not right! I don't have extra money! My child attends Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool here in Honokaa, and the school cannot afford to financially help my family further. I know they struggle every day just to stay open and the teachers are just wonderful but they get paid horribly, just like me. I wish you could see the progress my child has made.

Why is the State punishing me and my child just because I have a low-paying job and that's all I can get? Don't you understand that I want better for my child? I just do not know what I will do without Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. If I cannot send my child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when I am working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Please let my child continue preschool. Don't take preschool away from us just because I am the working poor. We are all so lucky that Ka Hale O Na Keiki opened 10 years ago. They have helped our community so much for so long now. Please, my I beg you.

I want my child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in my co-pay because I wouldn't be able to afford preschool for my child. If you increase my co-pay, I will have to quit my job to care for my child. Then, what? Welfare?

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone # _____

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair

Date: December 1, 2009

Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Dear Representative Mizuno:

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Preschool children should not be denied a decent beginning to their education just because the State has failed to create a sustainable education system over the past 10-20 years.

If the co-pay is increased the preschool will close, teachers will become unemployed, and all this will affect other businesses because local spending will go down. How can the State expect to take money from a family of poverty to try to balance the State's budget? That's not right! I know our preschool struggles every day just to stay open and the teachers are wonderful but they get paid horribly, just like me. I wish you could see the progress my child has made.

The State should be paying more for subsidies so our preschool can pay our teachers better.

Where will our teachers at Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool find jobs? Why is the State punishing me and my child just because I have a low-paying job and that's all I can get? Don't you understand that I want better for my child? I don't have extra money! You wanted me to email this to you but I cannot even afford email!

If I cannot send my child to preschool I have nowhere to put my child when I am working. If there is an increase in my co-pay I will be forced to take my child out of Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool. That would be horrible as the school is wonderful and they so helped my family.

Don't take preschool away from us just because I am the working poor. Please let my child continue preschool.

What am I supposed to do, go on welfare? I want my child to succeed! I am opposed to any increase in my co-pay because I wouldn't be able to afford preschool for my child. If you increase my co-pay, I will have to quit my job to care for my child.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone # _____

To: Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Sandy Ahu

Phone: 675-0195

E-Mail: sandy_ahu@notes.k12.hi.us

Date: Thursday, December 03, 2009

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

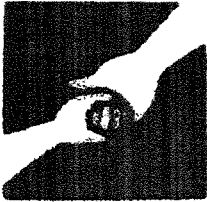
Aloha members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Sandy Ahu and I am the principal at Kanoelani Elementary School.

Kanoelani currently has 122 Kindergarten students enrolled. Of the 122 students, 61.3% of our students attended pre-school. In addition, 35.8% receive free/reduced lunch subsidy. The increase in numbers of children receiving lunch subsidy is increasing each year while the numbers attending pre-school are not. Our children benefit from any pre-school experience.

Students with pre-school experience are familiar with rituals and routines. They know and work within a structured environment so they know what to expect each day. They are familiar with working and playing with others. Most of these children have some concepts about print-left to write reading, covers of books, turning pages, letters form words. Many of them are reading prior to entering kindergarten, knowing colors, shapes and number counting.

The expectations for students to be able to read at the end of kindergarten are hindered if they come to school ill prepared. Not every family can afford a pre-school experience. This investment in our future is absolutely imperative for each child. Any subsidy would benefit our families. Our request is to continue the subsidy for Early Childhood Education. Let's give each of our keiki that opportunity for an opportunity to meet high expectations in this 21st century.

Sincerely,
Sandy Ahu



KANSHA PRESCHOOL
An Intergenerational Program at
the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

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Charlene Doi
Preschool Director

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

**Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Human Services**

**INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING
Friday, December 4, 2009, 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii**

FROM: Richelle Lu, Secretary *Richelle Lu*
Kansha Preschool Board of Directors

DATE: November 30, 2009

**RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to Proposed Rule Changes to the DHS
Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program, HAR, §§ 17-798.2-12 and
17-798.2-14**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **OPPOSITION** to proposed amendments to HAR, §§ 17-798.2 and 17-798.2-14. I oppose any decrease in child-care subsidies for families with preschoolers.

Preschool is one of the most important building blocks in a child's social and educational development. Because preschool is not a part of the public education system, parents must either completely fund preschool related expenses, or seek child-care subsidies to offset the expenses related to this critical learning experience. As a Board Member on the Kansha Preschool Board of Directors, I have seen first hand the tremendous impact preschool can make in a child's life. The preschool experience can prepare a child for a lifetime of positive learning experiences. Knowing how to behave and interact socially with peers are key components to the preschool learning experience and appropriate behavior and social skills help a child maximize their academic learning experience once they reach public school age.

Page 2

In today's harsh economic climate, where families are faced with job losses, pay cuts, and reductions in work hours, child-care subsidies that enable children to attend preschool programs are critical. If these subsidies are reduced, many of the families enrolled in our program will be directly impacted and may have to withdraw children that are thriving in their learning environment. The impact of these withdrawals may not be fully realized until these children reach public school age when their teachers are then tasked with establishing the building blocks needed for children to succeed in school. Building blocks that should have been established at a much earlier age. This will add to the educational deficit already faced by our State, placing our children farther behind the national curve.

Please support the children of our community by not adopting the proposed changes to DHS HAR §§ 17-798.2-12 and 17-798.2-14.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.



KANSHA PRESCHOOL
P.O. Box 969
Wailuku, HI 96793

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on
Human Services

From: Kansha Preschool (Wailuku, Maui)
Phone: 808-242-5437
E-mail: kanshapreschool@gmail.com

Date: November 30, 2009

Subject: Written testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapter 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Char Mizuno and members of the Committees on Human
Services. My name is Charlene Doi, and I am a Preschool Director.

**We are opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14, relating to
the new proposed co-payment rates for families.**

Attached are written testimony from our staff and families on the effects of the proposed
amendments.

I have provided my contact information above, and would be happy to provide you more
Information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Charlene Doi

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Preschool dba Kansha Preschool
A 501(C)(3) non-profit organization



KANSHA PRESCHOOL
P.O. Box 969
Wailuku, HI 96793

Lillian B. Koeller, Director
State of Hawaii Department of Human Services

November 12, 2009

Re: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798, Benefits, Employment and Support Services Division

Aloha Director Koeller and the BESS Division of the Department of Human Services,

I am writing on behalf of the families of Kانشا Preschool, to express our opposition to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798, 2-14, the proposed co-payment rates for families.

Currently, 30% of our families are receiving between 90% and 100% tuition subsidies through Preschool Open Doors. These families are bi-lingual, and chose our program because they want a comfortable environment where their children could learn and practice English and the social readiness skills they need for kindergarten next year. In each household, the mother is at home caring for a younger child so that additional child care expenses are not incurred.

We also have a family that was approved for Child Care Connection, however, they have been waiting since July to find out what that subsidy will be. In the meantime, the father was laid off, and the mother is struggling to cover all of the family's expenses. This includes the cost of a specially-arranged reduced fee our Preschool agreed to provide at a financial loss to the Preschool, because his parents and our staff do not want him to miss out on important early learning experiences that will support him as he enters kindergarten next year. Without a subsidy, they will not be able to keep him in preschool.

It is true that the financial loss to our Preschool will be of great concern if our families are forced to withdraw because they cannot afford the severe increases in their co-payment. However, our primary opposition to the proposed amendments is their effect on the families who recognize the value of early education, and want the best for their children. Their efforts should be supported, not deterred.

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Preschool dba Kانشا Preschool
A 501(C)(3) non-profit organization

ctd p 2

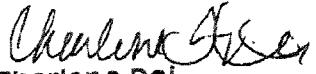
Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns. We can be reached at:

Kansha Preschool
P.O.Box 969
Wailuku, HI 96793

kanshapreschool@gmail.com

1-808-242-5437

Sincerely,


Charlene Doi,
Preschool Director

TO: Lillian B. Koeller, Director
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FROM: MATTHEW MORI
PHONE: (808)873-8004
E-MAIL: matthew@flex.com

DATE: 11/12/2009

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha Lillian B. Koeller and the BESS Division of the Department of Human Services.

My name is Matthew Mori and I am a parent.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798, 2-14, the proposed co-payment rate for families.

Our family is already struggling to make ends meet and we do not know if we can cover the increase in our co-payment. Mother stays home with our younger child so that we do not have to pay more for another child care provider. It would also be difficult for her to find employment right now in the current job market. We are a bi-lingual household, and are sending our child to preschool to help learn English, and to get ready for Kindergarten next year. We do not want our child to miss out on this early education.

I have provided my contact information above, so that you may contact me for more information to assist you in your decision-making.

Sincerely,



Lillian B. Koeller, Director

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICE

Tetsudo Takasaki

808-871-4831

te2dow@hotmail.co.jp

November 20th, 2009

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 17-798.

(Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha Lillian B. Koeller and the BESS Division of the Department of Human Services.

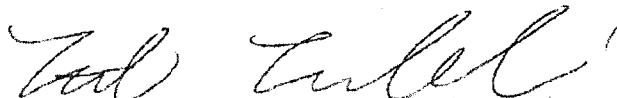
My name is Tetsudo Takasaki and I am a Parent.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapter 17-798, 2-14, the proposed co-payment rates for families.

Our family is already struggling to make ends meet and we do not know if we can cover the increase in our co-payment. Mother stays home with younger child so that we do not have to pay more for another child care provider. We can not have another job because we have R-1 and R-2 visa. We are a bi-lingual household, and are sending our child to preschool to help learn English, and to get ready for kindergarten next year. We do not want our child to miss out on this early education.

I have provided my contact information above, so that you may contact me for more information to assist you in your decision-making.

Sincerely,



To: Lillian B. Koller, Director
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

From: Cathy Jancoski
Phone: 651-307-9733
E-Mail: cjancoski@hotmail.com

Date: November 12, 2009

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha Lillian B. Koller, and the BESS Division of the Department of Human Services. My name is Cathy Jancoski and I am a teacher at Kansha Preschool on Maui.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapter 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

There are several families enrolled in our program that receive a co-payment for their tuition. With an increase in this co-payment most if not all of these families may have to leave our program. The majority of these families are from bi-lingual households. The children are enrolled to help learn English, and to get them ready for Kindergarten next year. This increase would be detrimental to them.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Cathy Jancoski

December 2, 2009

From: Elvrine Chow elvrine@aol.com
Assistant Director 808 822-0262
K.I.D.S. School 808 634-9999
1346 Inia Street fax: 822-0047
Kapaa, HI 96746

To: State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Human Services
Representative John M Mizuno, Chair

RE: Testimony in response to proposed changes in tuition assistance

On behalf of the 53% of families currently receiving either Preschool Open Doors or Child Care Connection tuition assistance so their children can attend Kauai Independent Daycare Services, Inc. better known as K.I.D.S. School, a nonprofit community preschool serving 81 children in the designated low-moderate income area of Kapaa on Kauai we want to thank you for receiving and reading this testimony.

Suggestion:

In response to the DHS proposed change in co-payments for families and providers currently receiving childcare assistance we would like to offer the following suggestion:
The State's proposed lowered ceilings are still too high. If the programs will also "Bite the bullet" by lowering their monthly rates to a more reasonable amount (such as \$500 per month for this interim crisis time), there will be a savings for the State without jeopardizing families and programs.

As a nonprofit preschool that is really trying hard to make a difference for all children by keeping tuitions affordable for the most needy families and the Gap Group (those that are just a little over the cut off) any reduction in tuition assistance may cause parents to have to withdraw their child.

The present idea on the table will definitely affect 53% of the children at our school (42 families who otherwise would be able to afford child care) as we already charge one of the lowest rates on Kauai at \$430/month. Please consider alternative solutions for the benefit of the youngest children in our state, they have no voice right now, but they are our future. Quality child care at an affordable cost is everyone's kuleana: The State, the parents and the providers.

Example:

Currently KIDS charges \$430/month for three and four year olds from 7 am – 5 pm, M-F. We could charge up to \$675 per month, however we know that in our area no one could afford it and we would be empty, except for those receiving State tuition assistance because the State is willing to pay up to \$675 per month. We stay at \$430 per month because we can function at that rate while still keeping the tuition affordable for gap group families and not outrageously expensive for families that have a higher income. If we charge \$430 and the State helps pay \$301 or 70% for a family while another preschool charges \$710/month and the State helps pay \$497 or 70%, then the State pays a much higher amount for a child to attend one preschool over another. (\$196 a month more for some families)
What if the State decided that all families who qualify for 70% will receive 70% of only \$500/month or \$350 to every family unless the tuition is lower than \$500 (savings of \$147 per month)
Then the providers would have to look at their costs and possibly reduce them a bit to keep the children enrolled. Perhaps they could lower their rates to \$500/month and see what happens.

The way the State is proposing to cut funding now discriminates against the parents of the children attending a lower priced preschool by forcing them to pay a higher percentage of tuition, so that the State can afford to pay for the higher priced programs for a different family.

Also the trickledown effect would eventually affect our State's workforce who depends on quality childcare.

Lower priced quality programs save the State and families lots of money.

Is it possible for the State to lower all the ceilings to a more reasonable affordable amount by possibly prorating all the current rates to come up with a base figure for the various categories? This would hopefully cause the programs to reevaluate their rates and possibly lower them to assist their families to stay in their programs.

Example:

Earlier this year, some family child care providers on Kauai were struggling because of lack of enrollment. It was suggested to them to lower their rates and become more competitive with other providers in order to fill up. Knowing that times are hard for families, it would show compassion and later as times get better, the rates could be raised slowly.

This is really a time where the State, the providers and the families can work together to support each other for the good of the children.

I feel that somehow the State got "sucked in" to be paying extremely high tuition rates for overly priced programs.

The State wants the children who come from the families with the least income to have a chance to receive quality childcare right along with the children who come from families who have the most income.

Unfortunately for everyone, some overly priced programs may have taken advantage of this by raising their tuitions and making the State pay, then turning around to the families not receiving State assistance and give a "discount" in the form of scholarships created as a result of having State funding along with other grants. It is not fair that providers continue to charge high rates and expect the State to pay. I would hope that the State also would be interested in making child care more affordable for everyone involved by lowering the ceilings to a more reasonable amount across the board.

If providers do lower their rates a bit on their own it will be wonderful, if the State has to step in and request this, so be it. It would be a solution that everyone involved who cares about all children would help to resolve: the State, the families and the providers.

In other words: could the State prorate the current tuition rates to come up with a figure? This figure would be the Most or Maximum amount the State would consider paying for childcare across the board, then the scale would slide from there based on parent's income levels. If providers chose to charge more than this pro-rated cost, it is up to them and the parents would have to pay the difference. This is essentially happening now except that some programs charge \$1395/month and others charge only \$430/month. The State pays for all of it, rather than only paying a maximum for any program across the board.

Any reduction in tuition assistance may cause parents to have to withdraw their child.

The present idea on the table will definitely affect 53% of the children at our school. That's 42 families, working parents who already are operating on a bare bones budget who will no longer be able to afford quality child care in an educational environment such as we provide at KIDS School from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm, M-F even though we charge only \$430 per month.

Please consider alternative solutions for the benefit of the youngest children in our state, they have no voice right now, but they are our future. Quality child care at an affordable cost is everyone's kuleana: The State, the parents and the providers. Thank you.

From: HUS testimony
Subject: FW: testimony regarding DHS proposal for decrease in Preschool tuition assistance

-----Original Message-----

From: Veronica Higa [mailto:kdbckeikiland@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 8:47 AM

To: HUS testimony

Subject: testimony regarding DHS proposal for decrease in Preschool tuition assistance

To The Honorable Hawaii Legislaturers:

I am a preschool director of a private church sponsored preschool in Hilo, Hawaii, Kaumana Baptist Keikiland. We have been in existence since 1962. We have 54 preschoolers ages 3-4. One third of our preschoolers receive tuition assistance from the state through Child Care Connection and Open Doors.

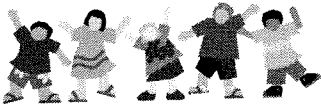
From what our parents tell us that our "graduates" have had good foundational education through our preschool that helped them to be prepared for kindergarten and for becoming good citizens. Our tuition is \$556 a month that includes nutritious snacks and a lunch and we have well qualified and educated staff. We cannot decrease our tuitions any more to maintain quality. If the tuition assistances are cut as drastically as proposed I feel that not only will some of our parents have to withdraw their children from preschool but may have to seek home childcare. It is very difficult to find home child care in Hilo. Their other option is to stay at home and care for their children which will cause even more hardship on their families.

We do have a modest wait list for children wanting to enroll if children drop out but not enough to support our present staff. We may have to lay off some of our staff if some of our parents withdraw their children.

I understand you have to balance the budget in times like this but I hope that you will consider continuing adequate funds for preschoolers tuition assistance so that as many children as possible will benefit from strong preschool educational and character building foundations that will last a lifetime.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Veronica Higa
Director of Kaumana Baptist Keikiland



KCAA
PRESCHOOLS OF HAWAII

*For over 100 years,
preparing children for success*

2707 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: (808) 941-9414
Fax: (808) 946-1468

www.kcaapreschools.org

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KLAAPA - HAWAII KAI
LAALAPA MORGAN - KAPALAMA HEIGHTS
MOTHER RICE - MOHILEI
MURIEL - KAKAIAKO
NAHELE - LALEHI
WAIKABALA - LAHAI

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

From: Christina Cox, President
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii
808-941-9414 ext. 25 ccox@kcaapreschools.org

Date: 12/3/09

RE: Informational Briefing-11:30 a.m. CR 329 Proposed Rule Changes to
HAR Chapter 17-798.2 CHILD CARE SERVICES

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii was established in 1895 as Kindergarten and Children's Aid Association by the Woman's Board of Missions to provide care and education to Hawaii's most vulnerable children. We continue with that mission today as we offer quality early care and education to almost 1,000 children every year at 7 nationally accredited preschools on Oahu. More than half of the families we serve are low-income and over 80% of our students continue on to attend DOE public schools. We manage 11 different tuition subsidy funds to help ensure that low-income children have a seat in our classrooms.

We are, therefore, deeply concerned that 103 of our 125 low-income families who receive a tuition subsidy from the Department of Human Services may soon be asked to pay as much as \$400-\$600 more per month to keep their child enrolled in one of our preschools for the remainder of this school year.

In calculating the impact of the proposed sliding fee scale, this group of 103 affected families would be asked to pay AN ADDITIONAL \$33,000 per month in increased co-payments! We are now looking at our already-lean budget to see what expenses we could defer to make some small offering to families to help their child remain in preschool for the rest of the school year. We have already exhausted our annual tuition assistance fund for this school year which was negatively impacted by funding cuts made by long-time partner Aloha United Way.

Implementing the proposed changes will most likely result in forcing low-income families to remove their children from school and quit their jobs to care for them, placing a larger burden on the taxpayer. Let's help keep these families employed!

We strongly recommend that the Department modify the proposed rules to exempt in-house tuition assistance provided by a preschool in the Department's income eligibility calculations.

We recommend that the new rules apply only to children enrolling in the subsidy programs after January 1, 2010 and that the current rules remain in effect for currently enrolled students through May 31, 2009. This would give families time to make other arrangements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



From: Kimo Steinwascher [kimo@kaneoheranch.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:02 AM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: 'Christina Cox'

To the State's Legislative Committee on Human Resources;

I am the Chair of the Board of Trustees of KCAA Preschools, the oldest multi-site preschool on Oahu. We serve almost 1,000 children in 7 preschools.

At KCAA we pride ourselves in providing quality early childhood education in a manner that is accessible to children in all economic levels. We have great teachers, a great support staff and have been blessed with significant financial support from the private sector as we are a "not-for-profit" that works hard to break-even every year.

Nearly 40 percent of our students receive tuition assistance, from outside grants and subsidies or from our own internal sources.

There is a great demand for high quality, curriculum driven early childhood education. We are 100% full. Parents from all walks of life, all economic and racial backgrounds understand the importance of preschool experience and are willing to pay a substantial amount of their wages to improve their children's future opportunities.

The proposed rules to lessen the co-pay would be devastating upon our parents and their children. Many of our families are right on the financial edge and having them responsible for such a large increase in the co-pay would force them to withdraw their children from school.

At KCAA we certainly do not have the resources to cover this added expense.

We understand the State's budget difficulties but implore you to look hard at any way possible to maintain the current co-pay.


Thank you for your consideration and I would be glad to answer any questions.

Aloha,
Kimo Steinwascher
KCAA Board of Trustees.

Kimo Steinwascher
Kaneohe Ranch
Vice-President, Leasing & Development
(808) 263-8906 direct
(808) 263-8919 fax



KANEOHE
RANCH

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: HUS testimony
Subject: FW: Child Care Subsidies

From: R Bell [mailto:bellr015@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 6:04 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Child Care Subsidies

Aloha Kakou--

My name is Roxanne Bell and I am a teacher with the HCAP Head Start program. I work with the Koa Iki Head Start out in Makaha. I have been a teacher with the Full Day Full Year program in Head Start which provided full child care to the children and parents in the Leeward area for 15 years. All children received child care subsidies.

I cannot express how detrimental it would be to the children and their parents to have their child care subsidies be increased. These parents depend on the subsidies. Their lives have changed for the better by pursuing their education or by being employed knowing their children were in a safe, learning environment.

While receiving child care monies, parents were able to attain their High School diploma, receive higher education by attending college, find employment and keep their current employment. There were also several parents who have opened their own businesses. To increase the subsidizes may result in some parents having to quit their jobs as they cannot afford the increase, or leave their children with people who will be "babysitting" them as opposed to teaching them.

While the subsidy increase may bring devastating effects on the community not to mention the economy, I would like you all to keep in mind the effects that it will have on the children. These children will be pulled from their safe, nurturing learning environment and this may cause a traumatic effect on the young child.

With a heavy heart, yet hopeful, I ask that the child care subsidy be reduced so that our keikis can continue to reap the benefits of early childhood education. And that the parents may continue their education and keep their jobs.

Aloha,
Roxanne Bell

To: Human Services Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Services

From: Mrs. Elsie C. Tom, Director of KONA HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL, Kealahou, Hawaii

Phone: 808-323-3737

Email: konahongwanji@hawaiiantel.net

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Mrs. Elsie C. Tom, I am a director of a preschool in Kealahou, Hawaii.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapter 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payments rates for families.

I am sadly watching enrollment decrease here at school. Last year we already we had low enrollment of thirty six children, since this August enrollment is down to twenty. Right now four families are on state assistance, with the proposed amendments those four families and those waiting to come will not have the opportunity to be in an environment that being in a preschool provides. These are truly families who need the assistance.

We, on the outer islands ask for serious consideration of all situations before going forward to the proposed amendments to chapter 17-798.2-14.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Elsie C. Tom

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Services

From: Mrs. Sharon YT Yong
Phone: 808-323-3737
Email: sharonyong50@yahoo.com

Date: December 3, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Sharon YT Yong and I am an Early Childhood Educator at a KONA HONGWANJI PRESCHOOL, in Kealakekua on the island of Hawaii.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payments rates for families.

I have been teaching for 12 years now and this is the first time ever that the school I am employed at has suffered such a decline in enrollment due to the economic and family's financial situations. As this school year started I had an enrollment of only 16 children. (I usually have an average of 22 four and five year old children in my class and an aide). As this year continued the enrollment has dropped to now only ten children. Tough economic times and financial hardship for the parents and families have left them no decision but to remove their children from preschool and keep them at home or else where.

This is such an injustice to the children, who are our future generation; they are part of our communities and neighborhoods. How can such an injustice are done to such a young age group of children. Some of the children need the experience of being in a classroom environment with loving, caring teachers who have much experience and knowledge in early childhood.

Did you know that children that have the opportunities of attending preschool are better prepared when it comes time to enter kindergarten? Our school has the reputation of producing children that are kindergarten ready (these same children later become leaders in their class, early readers and overall good students in their school) because of the experiences they had here. Of course if it wasn't for the financial assistance from Human Services Open Doors or Child Care Connection some of these same students wouldn't have had the good guidance and experiences we provided. These same students never forget their time here and often come back to visit their school and reminisce their days here.

We, ask for your serious reconsideration of all situations before going forward to the proposed amendments to chapter 17-798.2-14.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sharon Y.T. Yong

To: Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Shelley Ferrara

Phone: 672-1100

E-Mail: Shelley_Ferrara/MKLANI/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Shelley Ferrara and I am the principal at Mauka Lani Elementary.

I am writing to testify for the continued need for child care subsidies for vulnerable families with preschoolers.

As a Title I school, many of our incoming students lack the necessary pre-literacy skills necessary for success in Kindergarten because they were unable to receive preschool services.

Many of our families could not afford preschool, or could only afford babysitting or daycare which unfortunately did not adequately prepare our students for Kindergarten.

Now more than ever, our students need to enter Kindergarten with the necessary skills needed to be successful beyond just knowing how to hold a book and following print from left to right. Today our incoming Kindergarten students need to know how to sound out letters and recognize rhyming sounds.

I urge you to continue to fund child care subsidies for our vulnerable and most needy families.

Thank you,
Shelley Ferrara
Principal
Mauka Lani Elementary School

From: Aloharieck@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 10:08 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Dec. 4 Testimony for Legislative Hearing: Childcare Subsidies

December 1, 2009

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives, Senate Committees of Human Service, Department of Human Services and Governor Lingle

From: Marie Rieck Email: aloharieck@aol.com Phone: (808) 965-9994

I direct and teach at the Montessori Country School in Pahoia, HI. I've been with the school since it first began providing quality early childhood care and education to children aged two through six 26 years ago. The District of Puna on the Big Island and the Pahoia community is one of the most at-risk and economically depressed areas of our state. The school serves approximately 50 families each year, of which more than 65 to 80 percent are on tuition assistance programs each year.

I respectfully request (*and plead*) that our Governor does NOT sign the proposed amendment to Chapter 17-798.2 Hawaii Administrative Rules (BESSD). Increasing the co-payment for the families receiving funding from either Childcare Connection or Preschool Open Doors will have devastating effects on all facets of field of early childhood education. Why would the state even *consider* making the cost of quality, licensed childcare and education unattainable for our struggling families, many who ARE working, attending school, or perhaps, recently unemployed?

It is clearly evident that whoever proposed this amendment has not carefully considered the huge financial and social consequences that this will create for our State of Hawaii! This increase in the cost of childcare for our families will only generate *more* unemployment, *more* people on welfare assistance, and *more* of our children not being adequately cared for, not to mention the numerous childcare providers and centers that will be going out of business. Who will be left to care for the children whose parents can afford tuition?

There are many communities on the Big Island and elsewhere in our state that already struggle with a high rate of drug addiction, child abuse and domestic violence. This proposal will put families under further stress, raising these statistics even higher. Is the State of Hawaii willing to accept the liability (and additional cost) of putting our youngest keiki at greater risk? I am certain that the signing of this amendment will create far more public adversity than even teacher furlough days have done!

I understand that if this amendment is signed, these increases may go into effect in January 2010. Most of the families on these programs have heard very little about this proposal. Imagine the New Year starting off with these families facing a very desperate childcare situation, with very little notice, in the middle of the school year, and right after the holidays! Yes, I recognize that major cut backs are being made in programs throughout our state. However, I don't believe that these drastic increases in co-payments have been proposed with fair warning, negotiation or adequate exploration of alternate avenues that could provide some relief for these depleted programs. Has anyone considered limiting the POD funding from 12 months to a 9 month period; or decreasing the eligibility age for Childcare Connection funding from birth to 8 years of age (instead of age 12); or increasing the parent co-payment in reasonable, timely increments?

The importance of quality childcare in the first five years of life cannot be over emphasized. It has been documented through *extensive* early brain research that "*The first five years lasts forever!*" I beg of you, the DHS, legislators and Governor Lingle, PLEASE pay attention to the true COST that this "dollar saving" amendment will be for our state. Especially for the children, the future of Hawaii!

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Barbara Ozaki, on behalf of Small World Preschool
Phone: (808)885-4388
E-Mail: smallworldpreschool@hawaii.rr.com

Date: December 1, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is *Barbara H. Ozaki* and I am a *Teacher and Co-Owner of Small World Preschool*

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Many parents will no longer be able to give their child(ren) the accessibility to a structured and nurturing preschool environment if these proposed rule changes pass. The State now seems to be reneging on their advocacy of early childhood education, and the importance of the preparation a child would receive prior to entering kindergarten.

Our program will be impacted by loss of potential revenue, resulting in potential job losses which would impact the increase in those unemployed. Plus it makes absolutely no sense whatsoever to impose these changes during the school year if a parent finds themselves having to pull their child out of preschool mid-year. State monies that were used to assist these children will have been "wasted" as the child will have lost the progression that a preschool environment provided them with in the time period prior to this happening.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

*Barbara H. Ozaki,
Teacher and Co-Owner
Small World Preschool*

From: bonnie96725@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 11:10 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: co-payment amendments

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Bonnie Leslie
Phone: 808-323-2463
E-mail: bonnie96725@gmail.com

December 3, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendment to Chapters 17-798.2-14

To the chairmen and members of the Committees on Human Service:

My name is Bonnie Leslie and I am the director of Son Shine Preschool in Kealahou, HI. I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14, the new co-payment rates for families. Of the 40 students enrolled in our school, 16 are receiving financial assistance. All of these parents are hard working, caring people who are trying to do the best for their children. Some are already victims of lay offs and diminished work hours. The proposed increase would definitely be an added hardship to all of them. Some have expressed the fact that there is no way possible that they can pay that much more money out of pocket. They would probably have to quit their jobs and pull their children out of preschool. That burden will not only be felt by the families of the those children but also by the others enrolled as the school would most likely have to close down. The likelihood of replacing 16 children is not good and so the lives of five more families would be affected as the school entire staff would become jobless.
Please consider other options and let these children remain in school.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you with more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Leslie
Director, Son Shine Preschool



310 Paoakalani Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: (808) 923-1802 Fax: (808) 922-2099
www.waikikicommunitycenter.org

December 4, 2009

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Members of the Senate and House Committees on Human Services

From: Joan Naguwa, Executive Director

RE: **Informational Briefing on Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14**

Hearing Date: Friday, December 4, 2009

Time: 11:30 am

Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **OPPOSITION** of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-1798.2-12 and 17.798.2.14.

My name is Joan Naguwa and I am the Executive Director of the Waikiki Community Center (WCC). The Waikiki Community Center has operated a single site licensed group infant toddler center and a licensed group child care center for the past 31 years. WCC's program is the only licensed group child care center in Waikiki for families who live and work in the Waikiki area and one of the few infant/toddler centers on Oahu.

Currently, over 50% of our enrolled children receive tuition subsidies through Child Care Connections and Preschool Open Doors. Of these families, 82% are working, single parents with one or more children to support on one income. Many of these families do not have family support systems or affordable alternatives available to assist them.

The proposed changes to the current Administrative Rules will have a significant impact on our families, as well as the thousands of like families throughout the State, and their ability to have their children learn and grow successfully in a quality educational environment and to retain employment if affordable child care is not available to them. Many of our affected families have stated that if the proposed tuition subsidies are approved, they will need to take their children out of our program and find other ways to care for their children, including quitting their jobs and going onto the State's welfare rolls; thereby, adding to the economic burden of the State of Hawaii. For our families, a



-2-

For our families, a 120% to 350% or more increase in their co-payments is just not reasonable for them to maintain economic independence and sustainability.

The domino effect of these proposed rule changes will also have a direct impact on our organization and employees. If affected parents remove their children from our program, we will have to lay off at least 5 of our teaching staff and very possibly close our program entirely. This will increase state unemployment rolls and reduce the inventory of available quality child care options for Hawaii's families.

One of our major concerns is that the current draft of proposed rule changes includes that these changes are retroactive from October 1, 2009. This implies that the State will seek repayment from either the families themselves or the preschools that were paid at pre-agreed upon rates from which operating expenses, including teacher wages, children's meals, have already been paid. This will have a severe hardship on the ability of child care programs like ours to operate even through the end of the State fiscal year.

We appreciate the difficult fiscal situation that the Dept. of Human Services must manage. However, the proposed rule changes will have **significant** impact on young children, working families struggling to make ends meet, and child care providers. We ask the Governor and the Dept. of Human Services to consider the following to minimize this severe impact:

- Delay implementation of any rule changes at least until the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2010 in order to allow DHS and the Hawaii State Legislature to find reasonable alternative solutions and funding sources.
- Remove any reference to retroactive dates.
- Exempt currently enrolled students from the proposed rate changes at least to complete the current school year and enable their parents to find alternate care with more advanced notice.
- Exclude in-house tuition assistance provided to families by the preschool as part of the family's income calculation. (Private sources of tuition assistance are shrinking funding and less non-State resources will be available to help families.)

In summary, Waikiki Community Center is in strong opposition to the proposed rule changes due to the significantly adverse effect they will have on young children, families, early education, child care, employers and business in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

Written Comments:

Individuals or Users

From: HUStestimony
Subject: FW: childcare

From: Kathy Andrade [mailto:andradek07@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 8:22 AM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: childcare

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to the childcare coverage and the change it is facing. I am a parent of twin boys and they both attend preschool and i do get assistance from open doors. For some of us, without the assistance cannot afford to send our children to preschool. With everything already going on with regular public schools and the furloughs having to worry about our younger children is even harder. Some of us already wonder what is happening to "SUPPORT EDUCATION". Family values and morals already have gone out the door because now in order to make ends meet both parents have to work therefore we end up neglecting other things that use to be important to us. Even with both parents working making ends meet is still a problem.

Please for the love of giving our children a better education reconsider what is about to take place. We are suppose to encourage our children to go to school and get the best education they can.....not tell our children "I'm sorry I can't afford to send you to school"...parents are already going thru enough with paying mortgages and electric and trying to keep food on the table. Please reconsider and help keep our children in school..

Thank you for your time and consideration..

Sincerely
Kathy C. Andrade

From: HUStestimony
Subject: FW:

From: Saki Azha [mailto:rowyaforu@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 1:46 AM
To: HUStestimony
Subject:

To Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

Rep. Jhon Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, HOuse Committees on Human Services

From, Sakiko Azhari,

RE; Informational Briefing on Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14

Hearing Date; Friday, December 4, 2009
Time; 11:30am
Place; Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in OPPOSITION of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy 17.798.2.14
My name is Sakiko Azhari and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center early Education Program.

I am single mother for two children if the reduce of child care payment, I am not able to work and also financially can not afford the payment of child care. (I also paying for other kid child care for Fuloughs Friday and other school day off)

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony of this issue.

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and
Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Amy Bautista
Phone: (808) 721-3827
E-Mail: bautistae008@hawaii.rr.com

Date: December 3, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Amy Bautista, and I am a parent of two school age children and a preschool age child.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14, the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Please know that both my husband and I work full time and have done so all of our adult lives. My husband does construction work and I am a Legal Assistant. We have never collected welfare and have always paid our taxes. Aside from child care assistance, we have only very briefly received WIC benefits and Quest coverage and we only qualify for child care assistance now because of my husbands drastic reduction in work hours. My point is that we have not relied upon the State for assistance for any sustained period of time.

Our family sits in a financial black hole in that we make too much to receive most State assistances (i.e. welfare, WIC, Quest, etc.) but when monthly expenses are totaled we basically only make enough to survive each month – if even that! It is amazing to me how our society is progressing to a point in which a family – with two full time working parents – can not make ends meet because we are so heavily charged (for State services), taxed and furloughed.

We DO NOT expect assistance from the State, however, we do need it!! With school hours being cut -- forcing added child care costs, school lunch and bus fees being increased, and now this new proposed reduction in child care assistance, we may reach the point where one of us might have to stop working because we will not be able to afford to work outside of the home!!!

I am personally frustrated that working families are the ones being targeted – what is being done about all of the people staying home all day and collecting a free check each month? Maybe a reduction in their benefits would encourage them to get up and do something!! Or maybe we can re-evaluate our government structure to see if cuts could be made there? With no offense to this committee, I have to ask – could some positions be eliminated to free up more money for areas that need it? These are all tough questions with no easy answers.

Having said all that, I end by saying that I can appreciate these most difficult financial times and understand that government can not continue to provide and sustain assistance for all, however, I ask that you consider that while we can survive bumpier roads, less convenient State services, or less State officials, we can not survive if basic living costs continue to increase beyond what middle class WORKING families are able to earn!!

People receiving child care assistance are doing so because they are out doing something which will in some way contribute back to our society, our State and its people. If our State is unable to help those who are working very hard to help themselves – then we stand to loose much more than monthly monetary assistance – we may loose those who have the motivation and ability to grow, expand, and develop as productive community contributors.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my testimony.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Amy Bautista

December 2, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Shauna Brooks. I am 23 years old and have 2 children. My husband and I both work very hard and do our best to do things on our own. We live on our own and are noticing how hard it is to survive in the real world, especially with 2 toddlers! Both of us know that this is only the beginning for us and it can only get better from here, but if the subsidy amounts get lowered it's only going to set us back on our short and long term goals. We have bills on top of our regular living expenses and monthly tuition that we need to pay for. I would like to call ourselves responsible young adults that are just starting out. I have my priorities straight and take care of all of my responsibilities.

I cannot stress enough to you how tough, stressful, hard, scary, sad, worried, etc. this is on my family along with a bunch of other families in Hawaii. There are so many people I know that are getting DHS Subsidies. The reason why people and I are getting the assistance is because we really, truly cannot afford the high cost of tuition for our kids. I have had trouble getting through to my worker for a very long time now, BUT I feel I cannot and should not complain because I am very, very grateful that I am one of the lucky ones that can qualify for this assistance! Without the subsidy I am NOT going to be able to put my son in preschool. My son is at the point where he is learning a lot of things right now... he is 19 months and is fully potty trained, he learned to use the toilet the first week of October. I know I wouldn't have been able to potty train him so quickly if it wasn't for his great teachers at Kama'aina Kids, because I work full time! His teachers tell me that he and one of his classmates are ahead of the other children in their age group and also say that they are being held back. They want him to move up to the 2year old class, unfortunately there is no room for him and the other girl. My son, Dallas, should be in preschool; he is a learning, growing boy that is interested in sports, art, singing, dancing, reading, etc! You name it, he loves it. If I didn't have assistance I would not be able to put my son where I know he needs to be. Who knows how he would be if he wasn't in school. Believe or not, he and his sister look forward to going to school everyday. That's one of the first things they say in the morning is, "We go school?" and then they rush to get ready.

I was very shocked to hear that the subsidies would be decreased and the out-of-pocket amounts for the parents would be increased by a few hundred dollars. As soon as I heard from Kama'aina Kids I immediately tried to get a hold of my case worker. No answer and of course no call back from her. I understand all the case workers are extremely busy with the incoming calls that they are getting because of this matter, but I feel they (not the schools) should have notified the families before hand. Also having a 24 hour hotline or "answering service" to answer their calls for them, when those people have no clue what's going on with anything. If and when you call the 24 hour answering service and ask them questions all they tell you is they can take a message, but it is a guarantee that the voicemail boxes are all full. Even they sound irritated with all the calls that are coming in because they don't know how to answer the client's questions. You would think that if there is an answering service they would at least know some information

about the upcoming events or changes. I called my worker many times within several days. Like I have mentioned before I have trouble reaching my case worker all the time along with a few of my friends that have the same worker as I do! I am one that likes to be on top of things no matter what it is, especially my children's tuition and subsidies. If those subsidies don't get in then I am going to be in big trouble.

I already have trouble finding a babysitter when the kids don't have school on certain days. Our family members all work, my job is convenient but not convenient to the point where I can take off whenever I want to or leave whenever I want to. I had sick leave, vacation pay, and personal paid days, BUT my children get sick very easily and have the occasional asthma when they get sick. So all my benefits and my husband's benefits went to our kids when they were sick and when they had no school. My son was in and out of the hospital a couple times and for a week or so at a time.

I would love to be able to stay home with my children and be their primary provider, but I or we are not fortunate enough to do that. I would basically be forced to quit my full time job because I would have to pull my son out of school due to the high cost tuition. And by pulling him out of school I would have to watch him because, again we are not fortunate to have family watch our kids! And by me quitting my job I would have to apply for financial assistance and probably food stamps too. I do not like the feeling or thought of me not being able to "earn" my own money for my family. My dad has always taught me to be independent, not to rely on ANYONE for anything; just do things yourself. My dad also taught me a lot about paying your bills on time, never be late, never use more than you actually have. To this day I do not like asking anyone for help, whether it is for food or gas, even if it were my dad. We have family members that always tell us if we are ever in need for food or gas then don't hesitate to call, but we just can't bring ourselves to ask them for help.

Please do not lower the subsidy amounts; I really do not want to quit my job. I would feel so helpless and I would feel like a failure not being able to provide for my own family. I know some of you may not realize how stressful this can be on some people, but this is very depressing! Living in Hawaii is costly as it is. Shelter, gas, food, and other expenses are extremely high. It's no shock why there are lots of homeless people in Hawaii! Who would've thought that the money for DHS or child care subsidies would run out... If DHS can run out of money, the same will probably go for financial assistance and food stamps (welfare). More people are going to be forced to get additional help from the state; pretty soon those funds will be exhausted too! When that happens, what is the state going to do, no one will have shelter, no one will have food, no child will have their education because their school weeks may be cut down even more, no one will have jobs!

Thank you for taking the time in reading my testimony!

Sincerely,

Shauna Brooks

To whom it may concern:

11/19/09

I am a mother of two. My husband and I both work full time. Our four years old is in preschool and our 7 month old is at a babysitter's house while we work. We receive subsidies from the state to help pay for our childcare expenses. The huge proposed jump in our co-payment will affect us dramatically in the following ways. Financially it will become very difficult for us to pay our basic expenses like rent or food. We are doing the best we can to provide our children with an education and it seems like the rich will be the only ones who will be able to afford preschool. I feel for the families who will have to pull their kids out of school because they can't afford it. Thus having to quit their jobs and stay home to take care of their little ones then jumping on welfare for financial assistance so they can buy basic household items. This is so sad that the working poor are having to be dealt this blow. I strongly oppose this proposal and I hope all sides have been considered in this matter.

I have lost All Faith in the
Hawaii State government

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Brown

Taryn T. Chikamori
94-1039 Kaloli Loop
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
(808) 386-4599

December 1, 2009

Honorable Representative John Mizuno
Honorable Representative Tom Brower
Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Senators and Representatives:

I do not support the proposed rule changes to the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17-798.2-14.

I will be greatly impacted by this rule change. My son attends preschool and his tuition is \$700. The maximum subsidy I can receive is \$675. I currently fall in the eighty percent reimbursement rate which means I currently receive \$540 and pay \$160 out of pocket. I know my out of pocket seems so little compare to what the State is giving me but if the rules are changed I will only receive \$135 from the State and will have to pay \$565 out of pocket. The \$565 is about seventy-five percent of my pay check.

If the rules changes are put into effect I will be forced to pull my son out of preschool. My son has gained an abundance of knowledge and made many new friends from attending preschool. I feel all children need the school setting not just for educational skills but for emotional, developmental, and social skills. I am employed by the State and affected by the furloughs. I don't ask for or qualify for government assistance such as food stamps, financial support only child care assistance that allows me to work and give my son a good education. If I need to pull my son out of preschool I will most likely need to quit my job to take care of my son because I am a single parent with no help from his father. I will then have no income and may need to receive government assistance. Changing the rates will do more harm than good.

Also, if the rule change is put into effect the only families that will be able to afford to send their children to preschool would be the families who have hundred percent to about seventy or eighty percent of their tuition covered. What about the rest of the children of our State. Why do the children of Hawai'i need to suffer because the adults do not know how to budget money?

Honorable Representative John Mizuno
Honorable Representative Tom Brower
Honorable Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland
Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
December 1, 2009
Page 2

Why not close enrollment? In not closing enrollment you help a few more families but hurt a lot more families many of these children whom are already enrolled in preschool. The transition of not attending preschool alone would harm these children.

I looked in to my other options and my son is on the waiting list for Alu Like and his school does not qualify and it's too late to apply for Puahi Keiki Scholars. As far as I can tell this are the only other resources out there for financial aid.

I am grateful to receive child care assistance, otherwise I would never be able to afford and provide the education that my child and each child deserves. In closing, I gracefully ask that the Legislature recommends not to changes rules or provide funds to help support the child care subsidy program.

Sincerely,



Taryn T. Chikamori

From: HUStestimony
Subject: FW: Chapters 17-798.2-14

From: Gayla_Coloma/SPED/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us [mailto:Gayla_Coloma/SPED/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 10:29 AM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: Chapters 17-798.2-14

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service
From: Gayla Coloma
Phone: 959-9943
Email: gayla_coloma@notes.k12.hi.us
Date: December 3, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun-Oakland, Chair Mizuno and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Gayla Coloma, and I am a Special Education teacher serving preschool programs for children with disabilities.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14 that include the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

As a member of the Early Childhood community and an advocate for young children, I believe that the proposed changes will negatively affect a wide population of young children and families who now have preschool programs available to them because of the current co-payment rates. Families are struggling, especially in these times, and it is heartbreaking to think that many young children will no longer have access to preschool services. The immediate effect will be seen when increased numbers of children enter Kindergarten with no preschool experience, and are expected to have the readiness skills that preschools prepare them with. Public schools are struggling to meet the demands of the federal NCLB law, and this will heavily impact the efforts of all schools. Are we not leaving our youngest learners behind by creating a system that does not support families to provide this foundational learning for their children? Our families in poverty and those with children with special needs can access free services to provide for their preschool age children, but our working families, parents who are single, and student parents are left with so few options. I humbly ask for your consideration on this issue. I am convinced that funds can be adjusted and money saved elsewhere within the system to allow us to continue to support our youngest learners and parents who are struggling to work and provide well for their children.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Gayla Coloma

**Informational Briefing: Friday, December 4, 2009
11:30 a.m.**

Re: The Proposed Changes to the Department of Human Services Hawaii Child Care Subsidy Program.

Dear Chair Mizuno, Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Brower, Vice Chair Ihara, And Committee Members:

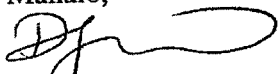
Aloha, my name is Dawn Cordeiro and I am a parent who is receiving tuition assistance from the State of Hawaii. I have a 4-year-old son who attends Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool at Honokaa, Hawaii. I am deeply concerned about the possible childcare cost increase and how it will affect our children and their families.

My child and I, along with the teachers, staff, children and their families of Ka Hale O Na Keiki will be affected by this cost increase. Most of us parents who are receiving tuition assistance from the state will be forced to remove our children from preschool and forced to quit our jobs. If we have to remove our children from Ka Hale O Na Keiki Preschool then the teachers and staff will get laid off. Eventually the preschool will have to close their doors. Ka Hale O Na Keiki preschool is the only preschool located in the Honokaa area. By having this preschool here for us, it allows our children to receive their education in a safe and loving environment. It also allows us parents to go to work and support our families. I had my hours cut in 2007 and still have not gotten my hours back. I am struggling as it is and so are other families.

Why are you going to deprive our keikis of their early education? These keikis are our future in Hawaii and America. Why take away from them what we all had too, that helped give you the career you have today. We need to let our Keikis grow and receive all the education they can while they are young.

I kindly ask you to reconsider these changes.

Mahalo,



Dawn Cordeiro

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Jennifer Davies
Phone: (808) 982-6383
E-Mail: jldavies@hawaii.rr.com

Date: 12/01/09

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Jennifer Davies, and I have been a Licensed Child Care Provider for ten years. I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. the new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I have six children in my care and out of the six, 5 are on or applying for childcare assistance. If this proposal is passed I would lose the five children. This would put a hardship upon my child care families and also my own family. I make approximately \$2.00 an hour. By decreasing the parents' payments you are asking me to work for free. The bills do not get paid with love alone. Please reconsider your decision on drastically increasing the parents' payments.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Davies

Committee on Human Services
Information Briefing

Friday, December 4, 2009, 11:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Researchers have gathered new evidence on the importance of the first years of life for children's emotional and intellectual development. Unfortunately, many of Hawaii's children are poor during these crucial years. These children from low income homes face a greater risk of impaired brain development due to their exposure to a number of risk factors associated with poverty.

Many poor young children are resilient and able to overcome tremendous obstacles but poverty poses serious threats to children's brain development. Recent advances in the study of brain development show a sensitive period when the brain is most able to respond to and grow from exposure to environmental stimulation. This window of optimal brain development is from the prenatal period to the three years of a child's life. While all children are potentially vulnerable to a number of risk factors which can impede brain development during this sensitive period, a disproportionate number of children in poverty are actually exposed to such risk factors.

It is critical that these children have quality early learning available to them. The DHS is proposing to lower child care subsidies. Most of the payments go to working parents or parents who are in school as this is a requirement for eligibility. While this in itself will cause many island families a hardship, DHS plans to reduce these payments mid-school year!! And, the adjustments being made to the family portions will force many parents to dis-enroll their children, leave their jobs, or leave children in less than desirable situations.

Please once again do not let the budget problems we face be carried on the backs of our children.

Submitted by,

JoAnn Farnsworth

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: John Fitzgerald
Phone: 935-7358
E-Mail: fitzcyclez@hawaiiantel.net

Date:

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is John Fitzgerald, and I am a parent.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

My wife works for the state and as you know the furloughs they have had to take has critically reduced our income. To partially make up for this loss in wages my wife withdrew herself from the states medical plan. We are both uninsured. The child subsidy is crucial to our present and future economic recovery and stability, without which we will be under more economic as well as emotional stress. Please do not add more burden to the families of Hawaii by taking away or drastically reducing a much needed social subsidy.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

John Fitzgerald

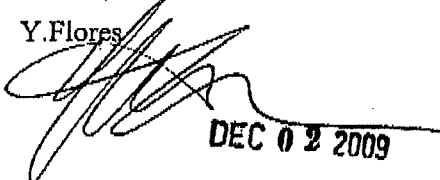
TO: COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

"The DHS Child Care Connection Hawaii (CCCH) program provides families with: subsidies to help with child care expenses; guidance in selecting a child care provider; information about quality child care programs; and referrals to community resources for help with other concerns. The highest priority is given to children who need out-of-home care for protective service reasons, to assure children's safety, comfort, and health. CCCH also helps low-income families to sustain their employment, educational efforts and job training by paying a subsidy for their children's care by DHS-approved child care providers

This insert was collected from the CCCH website. I am still distraught of the proposal to cut off subsidies for childcare. Its GOAL for CCCH is to PROVIDE HELP for families of children to keep their jobs, to continue education, and most of all to provide for their children. I understand that we are in a downfall but to cut off childcare that would mean I would be as low as the homeless families because I would have to look into welfare financial assistance and food stamp assistance. I have a very decent job position in the medical field at a well established medical facility. I am a single parent of 3 kids with one income and just minimal child support. I currently have 2 preschool aged kids that would cost approximately \$ 1200 out of my pocket if this proposal is approved. That would take up 90% of my income into childcare. There are limited outlets to go into for financial assistance outside of DHS, such as tuition assistance from the school or scholarships for preschools.

I am amongst many parents that have difficulty understanding why DHS has considered making changes to the sliding fee scale for your subsidies. I honestly believe and begging you not to approve this proposal. I do not want to lose my job. I do not want to lose my sons preschool. I do not want my kids lose out on other activities because I have to stretch my budget. I do not want to end up homeless. At this moment I am struggling as a single parent already, cutting childcare subsidies is no help. Recently I was cut off from childcare subsidies for AFTER SCHOOL CARE since my son's school did not participate with the DIRECT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT, so in return I pay \$100 per month out of pocket. If there is anything I could say or do to prevent this proposal I would try my best for the sake of my children and others. It is in my best interest for education to be instilled in young minds. With the help of CCCH it is possible, but with this tight budget dilemma it is very difficult.

Y.Flores



DEC 02 2009

~~Confidential~~

From: HUSTestimony
Subject: FW: Subsidy reduction hearing

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelly [mailto:k_foutz333@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 9:21 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Subsidy reduction hearing

Re: informational briefing on proposed rule changes to dept. of human services child care subsidy program, Hawaii administrative rules, section 17-798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14

Hearing date: Friday, December 4, 2009
Time: 11:30
Place: conference room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in OPPOSITION of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-1798.2-12 and 17.798.2.14. My name is Kelly Foutz and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

I would like everyone to take a moment to visualize what the future is going to bring when 50 percent of the currently enrolled children are forced to seek supervision from elsewhere. Is it going to be a neighbor, an Aunty, or some other random person? The child, and my child too will be deprived of properly stimulating environment, which will stunt their opportunities for a head start before they begin.

If the percentage of subsidy changes to a point in which a parent can't afford, the child, my child alike, WILL NOT BE GOING TO SCHOOL!!!

Which also means the school and child care centers will receive FEWER CLIENTS(children) and that is going to severely impact the welfare if those employed at those facilities. To be succinct: Less funding is going to hurt the children, the parents, and the childcare facilities and their employees! Not good for the future of Hawaii and our keiki!

Thank you for this opportunity testimony on this issue.

Sent from my iPhone

From: HUS testimony
Subject: FW: Proposed amendments to Chapter 17-798. 2-14 Benefit, Employment Services Division
Attachments: tokie.vcf

-----Original Message-----

From: Terry Ann Fujioka, Ph.D. [mailto:tokie@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 7:54 AM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Proposed amendments to Chapter 17-798. 2-14 Benefit, Employment Services Division

My name is Terry Ann Fujioka, Ph.D., and I am a psychologist who works with children and families in Kona.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapter 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed copayment rates for families.

Most of the families that I serve are struggling financially, and the toll of the past year has been enormous. The number of child abuse reports have increased in my community as the level of stress has risen and the amount of support services has plummeted.

I am very concerned that the proposed changes will mean that many of my families will no longer be able to afford preschool and daycare for their young keiki. This will mean that the parents will find unlicensed and likely poorly fashioned babysitting for the children. In some of my families, the older children will need to miss school to watch their younger siblings. These situations will increase the risk of child maltreatment or accidental injuries or deaths.

Thank you for your attention to this grave matter.

Sincerely,
Terry Ann Fujioka, Ph.D.

From:
Subject:

HUStestimony
FW: SUBSIDY REDUCTION HEARING WITH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

From: Solange [mailto:sseveryns@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 11:00 PM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: SUBSIDY REDUCTION HEARING WITH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 4, 2009

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Members of the Senate and House Committees on Human Services

From: Solange Severyns Globen

RE: Informational Briefing on Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14

Hearing Date: Friday, December 4, 2009
Time: 11:30 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **OPPOSITION** of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-1798.2-12 and 17-798.2.14. My name is Solange S Globen and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

As of now, both my husband and I are working full time. None of our relatives live in Hawaii so we have no choice but to send our daughter to the daycare in the Waikiki Community Center. We could also hire a nanny or a babysitter to take care of her, but leaving your child alone with a stranger is not an option for us. Thanks to the financial support, we can afford to send our daughter to the daycare and live an average life. Without this help, one of us will have to stop working in order to take care of our daughter. This entails a serious decrease in our family income and our life standards drastically change. Hawaii is an expensive state to live in, and we cannot afford to lose that extra income. We strive to offer what is best for our children. The daycare is also an excellent program for the children offering them intellectual stimulation and education. The future of our child's education is in your hands, do not take that away from them.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Alice Granito

Phone: (808) 565-6430

E-Mail: alice_granito@hotmail.com

Date: December 3, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Alice Granito, and I am a teacher.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Increasing family co-payments will have a negative impact on my school. Parents who are affected by this change may not be able to afford the proposed co-payments and may be forced to quit their jobs due to the loss of childcare. This will impact the staff with cut hours and possible lay-offs. The children will also lose by being forced to stay home and not have an educational environment.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Alice K. Granito

From: West Loch Occupancy Specialis [WL-occupancy@eahhousing.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 3:11 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Reduction in Child Care Subsidy payments

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a single mother of 3 young children. Now after reading the first sentence, I bet you're rolling your eyes and saying to yourself: "Oh no another young single woman with more than one child! Do they have the same father?"...

Well yes, I am a young (mid 20's) single woman with 3 young children ages 7, 2, & 1. My children's father made some wrong decisions in his life which was not healthy or safe for me or my children. Therefore we left to set off a better life. I am current receiving subsidy payments for my child care expenses. I do not receive 100% assistance because of my income, but what I do receive helps out a lot. I work a full time Monday thru Friday 8am – 5pm job. Like other full time working parents, I work to support my children and provide the necessities. I don't just do to work. I do it because it's my responsibility.

It is already hard for local families to survive with the basic full time job and providing for their families. So much "cuts" so much "lost". Now day's parents just have to be thankful they have a job and are able to support/provide for their family/children as much as they can. Some are child care employees and care takers themselves. I believe reducing child care subsidy will only case more hardship and frustration to working parents just trying to get by. Some families, such as At home child care providers or your average Baby sister depend on the income from child care subsidy payments, because they are unable to go out and work. So they find other ways to provide/support their family/children.

It ends up like a big circle. Child care workers, employees provide care for our children and receive income to do so, they can provide for their family/children while others work to provide for their own. Child care subsidy has helped me in many ways – for the more money for one thing, the less for another. More money spent on child care the less money I'll have to buy food or pay for basic necessities. Child care is a need; it affects many families in many different ways. Child care subsidy help parents have a peace of mind – knowing their child is being cared for to best of their ability, its helps parents make positive decisions on child care while there at work.

I hope the Department of Human Service's take a real hard look at what is at risk. If the saying "children are our future" is true to any importance to them I hope they would see that Child care subsidy is needed. We already took days from our children's school days – which caused more cost to families for child care. Now you want to take away from child care subsidy programs? It's like a no win situation to local families just trying to get by and continue to enjoy living in Hawaii.

I hope you can see the aggravation and frustration that I have. My concern is that I; along with others that currently depend on child care programs are not cut short of what is really needed and will have the peace of mind that the Department of Human Service and Hawaii's Child Care subsidy programs are looking into their best interest for us "local" families.

Thank you,

Aurie Halmos

Occupancy Specialist/Admin.

WEST LOCH ELDERLY VILLAGE

91-1472 Renton Road

Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

Ph: (808) 681-0562

Fax: (808) 681-4140

E-mail: wl-assistant@eahhousing.org

Website: www.eahhousing.org

"A non-profit housing corporation creating community by developing, managing, and promoting quality affordable housing since 1968"

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From: Chrystel Hernandez [chrystel_hernandez@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 1:07 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Proposed rate change for child care

Aloha Mr. Brower

I am writing you in regards to the proposed rate change for child care.

We are a working family with 5 children. Both my husband and I work full time and live pay check to pay check. I work for the DOE and with the newly announced Furlough days our income is going to become even more constrained.

If our co-payment goes up for my son I don't see how we would be able to afford to pay for his child care. With out his child care we would not be able to work and support our family.

I am very much opposed to the rate change. Please consider how this is going to affect many, many families. We are all already dealing with very difficult financial times please do not put more stress on our family. My family and I are counting on you to make the right decision.

Sincerely

Chrystel Hernandez, Parent

Windows Live Hotmail gives you a free,exclusive gift. [Click here to download.](#)

From: Tammy-Marie Holt [tammyd@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 2:55 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Child Care Subsidy

December 3, 2009

Committee Chair Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

Committee on Human Services

The Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 329
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Opposition to the proposed rule changes to the Department of Human Services', Hawaii Child Care Subsidy's Program

Representative John Mizuno, Representative Tim Brower and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, as a Licensed Hawaii State Family Child Care Provider I oppose the proposed budget cuts to the Hawaii Child Care Subsidy's Program for the following reasons:

Families who depend on this subsidy will no longer be able to afford preschool. Parents will have to decide whether or not they can keep their job or try to find alternative childcare arrangements. The consequences of discontinuing preschool may be great. Some children may be left in unsafe environments, while others will feel the burden of their household budget shrink because one parent is no longer employed. We must also take into consideration the impact this proposed cut will have on single parents.

Schools that have a significant number of "subsidy children" will no longer be able to keep their doors open; thus raising the number of unemployed people in our state.

The safety of our children is at stake. By significantly reducing the childcare subsidy children will lose the foundation that quality Early Childhood Education provides.

Early Childhood Professionals are the protective eyes and ears for children. Licensed, regulated daycares/preschools provide clean, safe environments, where children are consistently attended to, made to feel significant, and well fed. Licensed daycares/preschools are also places that utilize services such as Early Intervention, PATCH and our DHS Social Workers when we feel a child may be in need. Thousands of children will lose those eyes and ears if they are no longer able to attend their preschool.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify, please support my stand in opposition to the proposed rule change.

Sincerely,
Tammy M. Holt
B.S. Early Childhood Education

From: namakahaloa@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 12:38 PM
To: HUS testimony

Aloha,

I work with a preschool on the island of Hawai'i. We have seen steady decrease in enrollees as the economy deteriorated. We are licensed for a total of 24 students, but only have 14 students at this time. Please be aware of our responsibility to our children pertaining to preschool. Most parents need help paying this tuition; the kids need preschool to enable them to learn with their peers that did go to preschool.

Mahalo,
Piliialoha Johnson
Hilo, HI 96720
808-895-5531

~~Cynthia Myroes~~

From: Nancy Trull [nkimrtrull@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 4:10 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: proposed DHS changes in the co-pay structure for childcare services

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of Kona, Hawaii and am a part-time volunteer at a preschool. The reason why I volunteer at a preschool as opposed to any other type of organization is because I believe quality child care and early childhood education are the two most important issues in our community. Children are the most valuable asset in our society and how we take care of and educate them are critical. I think everyone understands that the state budget is in a crisis. And, almost everyone I know are willing to experience the consequences of budget cuts. However, when it comes to cutting the budget in state subsidized childcare services such as the co-pay structure, most of us feel is a disservice to the children in more than one area. If parents no longer receive financial assistance, one of the parents in a household has to quit working in order to take care of their children. This will put further stress on the family's finances as well as remove the children from a good developmental environment. Children suffer when there is undue stress in their homes. In the case of a single parent household, if this parent is unable to work due to caring for his or her children, they will most likely end up on welfare which will cost the state money anyway.

I think the negative consequences of changing the co-pay structure for childcare services are much too great compared to what it might save the state in the short term. For those in positions to make this decision, please reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nancy Kim-Trull

From: HUSTestimony
Subject: FW: Proposed Order

From: Kathryn Livingston [mailto:kathryn@bigislandlawyers.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 10:13 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: RE: Proposed Order

Thank you for responding, here is my previous attachment :

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Kathryn Livingston
Phone: (808) 454-3112
E-Mail: kathryn@bigislandlawyers.com

Date: 12/2/09

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Kathryn Livingston and I am a Parent.

Our mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawai'i's young children (0-8) and their families.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

If the family co-payment is to increase it will affect my daughter and me dramatically. I am a single mom and work full time. Like many young mothers I receive no support from my daughter's father and without the current assistance I would not be able to send my daughter to day care. I understand the current economical situation and am willing to make sacrifices in other areas of my day-to-day life; however, cutting the only assistance I receive for my daughter's day care is not one of them. Please do not amend Chapters 17-798. 2-14.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Livingston

From: kaimana sparkle [kaimana_sparkle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 3:53 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Tuition assistance cuts

My Name is Stacy Louie and I'm a single mother of one, I have two small businesses, a mortgage to pay, and a daughter to raise, and I rely on the assistance I receive from Child Care Connection to help me put my daughter in pre-school. Realistically, if this assistance is cut off, I will have to take my daughter out of pre-school until she is of age to attend public school, thus affecting her early education needed to prepare her for kindergarten.

I would really appreciate you re-evaluating this situation.

Thank you very much.

Stacy Louie

From: Chloe Marchant [chloej@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 5:31 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: apeters@goodbeginnings.org; gina-medrano@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony!

6530 Kaahele St.
Kapaa, HI 96746

Good Beginning Alliance
33 South King Street #200
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Good Beginning Alliance

I am currently a part time student at Kauai Community College; my major is Early Childhood Education.

Money is so important to many people in our Hawaii Island. Furloughs are not only affecting families but our children. Our children are too young to understand how their education is at risk, due to the furloughs.

At first when money risks were being brought up, and outcomes were being discussed our community didn't seem to take what the government was saying seriously. A few months later we are experiencing a drastic change in education. Schools are changing their school schedule to make more time for classes; children are getting pulled out of school due to financial issues. Although, schools are trying their best to make our children's education no longer at risk, I believe that it takes all of us as a community to take a stand and make a change.

Having reductions in child-care subsidy for families shouldn't have been an option. Our government has become so desperate that their only choice is to cut our education. We as a community need to take a stand and help shape our community together to get our children back in school! Since we are at such a low level, we need to make sacrifices. Teachers need to work for love and not so much money. Teaching is such an important job and the regular pay is still not enough to take care of the teachers own family. That's why majority of our teachers work out of love.

I personally want to see things straightened out. I want to see children back in school, parents getting back regular pay and most importantly the government needs to not give up and put out all they got! Families need money to take care of their children.

In conclusion; parents, teachers and students need to keep having hope and not give up! Everyone needs to understand that they are all in the same position: (regardless if their situation is worse or better) and take a stand and push till they get what they want! I believe if we all work together as a community and ohana and put our heads together we can make this world a better place and get children back the education they need!

Sincerely

From: Yumiko Ishitobi [lovesmile115@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 10:45 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Subsidy reduction hearing with house of representatives

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human services

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Members of the Senate and House Committees on Human Services

From: Yumiko McClain

RE; Informational Briefing on Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-14

Hearing Date; Friday, December 4, 2009
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in OPPOSITION of the Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-1798.2-12 and 17.798.2.14. My name is Yumiko McClain and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

The reason why I am opposed is that I am working single mother with all different shifts and I need to have a pre-school and baby sitters and pay a lot of expense from my income. If I don't have a support to help pay that money, I can't go to work putting my son in the schools and can't support our living.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

I am hoping that we can come to the best solution for all of us.

Best regards,

Yumiko McClain

Rep. Tom Brower, House HS Committee Vice Chair, Fax (808) 586-8524
and Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Poni Medeiros
Phone: 808-281-6170
E-Mail: poni_bill848@yahoo.com

Date: 12-01-09

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services.

My name is Poni Medeiros and I work in the field of early childhood education on Maui.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

The changes being proposed are way too drastic with not nearly enough time given to notify families to allow them to make informed alternative choices. This will have a devastating impact on young families and their community preschools that depend on monthly tuition being paid by these families. Preschools in general operate on "shoe string" budgets supplemented in many cases by materials being obtained at garage sales, swap meets, recycled items, etc. to stretch their money as far as possible. The staff are paid minimal wages even though they are worth their weight in gold. Without the current level of subsidies, most families will not be able to afford to send their child to preschool. Period. I have heard that time and time again. This will have devastating consequences for everyone concerned but mainly on the child, who will most likely not be able to finish out this school year. That will have consequences mostly for the four year olds who will then have not been prepared in the best way for kindergarten next fall. The domino effect of having children withdraw from their preschools will then cause preschools everywhere to face crumbling budgets and will most likely end up having to lay off staff and/or close their doors completely. Families will not have quality care for their young children because there are not nearly enough child care providers for all the children that will now be affected by these changes being considered. What are families supposed to do?? Your decision will affect our most vulnerable citizens and their futures so please consider other alternative decisions if at all possible.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Poni Medeiros
Poni Medeiros
Maui

From: mkeikim@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 3:11 PM
To: HUS testimony

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Brandee Miyamoto and I am a single parent. I receive assistance from Child Care Connections, so that my daughter may attend preschool. I work a part time job along with being self employed. The help that I receive from Connections is immeasurable. My daughter has learned many new things and has had the opportunity to meet and make new friends. If I were to lose that assistance, my daughter would be the one too lose out the most. She would have to start all over again at Head Start, if I'm lucky that there are still openings. If not she would have to stay home with my parents. She would lose out in learning and experiencing new things. For her to lose her friends that she has made would be heart breaking for a parent. There would be no easy way to explain to a child why she cannot be with her friends. So please think about the children that will be affected by the lose of this assistance.

Sincerely,

Brandee K. Miyamoto

From: Gilda Montenegro-Fix [gmontenegrofix@fsswh.org]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 1:18 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Changes to Hawaii's Child care subsidy program

Please do not cut these programs even further!
My own family plus many of the families I work with through EHS will be badly affected. We strongly oppose cuts in this area. It is already barely sufficient as it is.
Thank you for taking our voice into account.

--

Gilda Montenegro-Fix
Home Visitor EHS
Cell: 808-345-1874

December 4,2009

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

Senator Les Ihara,Jr,Vice Chair,Senate Committee on Human Services

Rep.John Mizuno,Chair,House Committee on Human Services

Rep.Tom Brower,Vice Chair,House Committee on Human Services

Members of the Senate and House Committees on Human Services

From: Keiko Okada

RE: Informational Briefing on Proposed Changes to Dept.of

Human Services Child care Subsidy Program,Hawaii Administrative

Rules,Sections 17-798.2-12and17.798.2-14

Hearing Date: Friday,December 4,2009

Time:11:30 am

Place: Conference Room329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **OPPOSITION** of the

Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy

Program,Hawaii Administrative Rules,Sections 17-1798.2-12 and

17.798.2.14. My name is Keiko Okada and I am a parent of

Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

I am a single mom. If co-payments are reduced I will not be able to afford to

have my son in a center.or have someone whatch him. I most likely have to quit my job.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

From: HUStestimony
Subject: FW: child care subsidy program

From: Steele Oyadomari [mailto:steelejo@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 10:17 PM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: child care subsidy program

December 4, 2009

To: Senator Suzanne-Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Members of the Senate and House Committees on Human Services

From: Steele Oyadomari

RE: **Informational Briefing on Proposed Rule Change to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14**

Hearing Date: Friday, December 4, 2009
Time: 11:30 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in **OPPOSITION** of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-198.2-12 and 17.798.2.14. My name is Steele Oyadomari and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

Cutting down funds and taking from the child care subsidy program would really affect me at this point in my life. I am a 20 year old local boy that has been working full time since high school and I have 2 beautiful girls ages 2 and 10 months. My oldest is currently attending Waikiki Community Center and she enjoys it there. Without the help we receive from the Child Care Subsidy Program, my daughter would not be able to attend the preschool. I would hate to see that get taken away from my little girl. As of right now, I am just getting by with my wage, but it isn't enough as to where I'd be able to pay my daughter's tuition in full each month. Thanksgiving has just passed and I am thankful for all that has been done just to send my daughter to a normal preschool.

I would appreciate it if my child care subsidy amount isn't reduced. I understand the reasons for this proposal but I don't think it's fair in any way to take it from the youth

I realize that I'm too young to be fathering 2 kids at the age of 20, but at the time I was only thinking about that very moment and not about the future. But I have always owned up to it and my children are my responsibility. Receiving child care subsidy makes life a whole lot easier for me and because of it I have been able to save enough money to attend Kapiolani Community College in the spring. I want to give my children a better life and not have to depend on the funds my family receives from child care subsidy to pay for my daughter's education in the future . I'm not one to abuse the system and I hope funds will be continued in the future for families who are in similar situations.

Mahalo,

Steele Oyadomari

From: Ann Park [anaparkhtg@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 4:56 AM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Oppsition

Categories: Blue Category

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

Rep. John Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services

Members of the Senate and the House Committees on Human Services

From: Ann Y. Park

RE: Informational Briefing on Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17-798.2-14

Hearing Date: Friday, December 4, 2009
Time: 11:30 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Chairs Chun-Oakland and Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in OPPOSITION of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17-798.2-14. My name is Ann Y. Park and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

I am opposed to the Proposed amendments to chapters 17-798.2-12 and 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I am a single mother of two children. My 3 yrs old Brian is attending at Waikiki Community Early Education Center. My job is from 8am to 4pm. My son loves this school and I feel safe to leave him during my work there. After going through divorce and bankruptcy, and many strange babysitters, past several years were very difficult. Finally with the help of co-payment I can send my son to trusty daycare I can focus my work and we are peaceful and happy.

If the co-payment increases I can not send my son to Waikiki Community Center and I have to stay home to baby sit him, then I will lose my job.

I have no sister or mother or relative lives in Hawaii and my son's father refused to see my son. We might have to live on welfare, it might cost state more money.

PLEASE HELP US

Education is important for Hawaii's future.

Mahalo

Sincerely Ann Y. Park

To: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Pamela Celestine Perkins, M.Ed.
69 West Palai Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Date: Friday, December 4, 2009
11:30a.m. Room 329

**Subject: informational Briefing Proposed Rule changes to the DHS
Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program, Sections 17-798.2-12 and 17-
798.2-14**

Aloha,

My name is Pamela Celestine Perkins and I am a licensed family childcare provider from Hilo. I am also an early childhood education teacher and trainer as well as a WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers Specialist (PITC) currently working with both Hawaii Community College's PACE Program and PATCH (Hawaii's Resource and Referral Agency). I serve on the DHS Advisory Committee as the State Family Child Care Provider Representative, and deeply regret the recent cancellation of the planned meeting and the seemingly hopeless circumstance of having no voice in this proposed rule change decision process.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14 (the new proposed co-payment rates for families).

My personal situation is thus: my income is primarily sourced from Arbor, i.e. childcare subsidies. If this proposed increase goes through, I would be unable to pay my next month's rent. I have one of the finest childcare environments in the State and had thought to seek national accreditation. With this cut in childcare funding, I would find myself homeless and out of the childcare business within that month.

I have always supported working mothers on subsidy and accepted as payment in full whatever they receive. I have thus chosen to be on a small but adequate income, but do not have any room for a reduction in compensation. And how could I ethically or realistically ask these parents who are on subsidy to come up with such an exorbitant amount of co-pay?

The reality for the young parents that I have served is that they are barely making it, work long hours, and often are in higher education programs to better themselves and their children's lives. I provide a strong parent education component to my childcare program, so that each family has information and support from me on healthy nutrition, child development and parenting issues. Over the years, I have seen families thrive and flourish through the supportive services I have provided. Will I be forced to abandon my current group of families and the positive relationships I have formed? Quite aside from the personal and financial crisis these proposed cuts would have for me, I am alarmed by the inevitable acute stresses for struggling families statewide that this proposed rule change will initiate.

I foresee severe implications for their children, especially for infants and toddlers who unequivocally need the security and continuity of high quality care in small groups with a consistent, primary caregiver. All current research and professional experience highlights the vital importance of secure attachment and healthy social-emotional skills in early childhood.

The feedback that has been streaming in to me from other providers, fellow educators, parents and local businessmen and women is filled with shock, grief, panic, deep concern, extreme frustration, helplessness and general belief that such a precipitous increase in co-pay is unconscionable. The fall out of this decision will devastate families all over the State.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Celestine Perkins, M.Ed.
Phone: 808-989-6213
E-Mail: pamelacperkins@gmail.com

To: Lillian B. Koller, Director
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

From: Judy Personius
Phone: 808 333-2624
E-Mail: jpersonius@fsswh.org

Date: 12/03/09

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha Lillian B. Koller, and the BESS Division of the Department of Human Services. My name is Judy Personius and I am a teacher and grandparent.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. the new proposed co-payment rates for families. In these stressed economic times, cutting funds to families that are already struggling is a sure way to impact our economy negatively. Do we want working families that are productive and require a small amount of financial support or do we want families unable to work, forced to collect financial assistance, food stamps, and public insurance-left feeling stressed and inadequate and unable to be productive in the work force? The other case scenario would be mothers who are forced to quit working, but whose families just barely exceed financial aid limits. Now, minus one income they can not make their mortgage. What about the preschools incomes and abilities to stay in business if all of the sudden their enrollment is cut in half. I feel we have to think ahead at the results of trying to save a little money. In the end we could make our financial woes a great deal larger.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Personius

From: Noeie Rodriguez [noeie@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 12:26 PM
To: HUS testimony
Cc: Sandra Claveria
Subject: Do NOT cut funds for PRESCHOOLS!!!

Dear Legislators:

I am a Community College professor of sociology at the Hilo Campus of HawCC. I have spent a good deal of my life studying the positive and negative impacts of social policies.

PLEASE understand that it is absolutely critical that there should be NO CUTS to the subsidy monies for preschools. The individuals who are counting on this subsidy are the single parents and students who are just barely surviving these hard times as it is. Cuts in these child care subsidies will result in lost jobs and school drop outs. It would send hundreds and perhaps, statewide, thousands, of individuals into economic chaos at a time when there are virtually no jobs available to them-- and begin the much dreaded cycles of poverty and dependence that we [and they!] are trying to pull themselves away from.

This is a critical issue. Please have the wisdom to do everything possible to stop these cuts.

Noeie Rodriguez, Ph. D. [808-974-7386]

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Gail Shin
Phone: 808-565-6266
E-Mail: gail.shin@gmail.com

Date: December 02, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

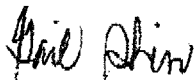
Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Gail Shin and I am a Preschool Teacher/Program Administrator.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

The new proposed co-payment rates for families will greatly impact our small island community on Lana'i. Families who are unable to afford co-payment rates for tuition will not enroll children in preschool or terminate current enrollment of their children. Children who are unable to attend preschool will not receive the many learning opportunities and experiences they deserve as young children!! Children will not have opportunities to further develop social, emotional, intellectual skills to become successful students and future adult members of society and receive mixed messages about the value of preschool education!! Employment for parents and school staff members will be affected. Parents who do not have a support system may need to relinquish their jobs to remain at home to care for children. Preschool may be unable to retain all staff members. Without an income, parents and teachers will be unable to sustain basic survival needs and seek state unemployment benefits, compounding economic challenges for our state.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,



Gail Shin

To: Lillian B. Koller, Director
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

From: Mellissa Spens
Phone: 808-358-7508
E-Mail: Mellissa.Spens.mte4@statefarm.com

Date: 11/12/09

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798. (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha Lillian B. Koller, and the BESS Division of the Department of Human Services. My name is Mellissa Spens and I am a parent.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I currently bring home less than \$1,800 a month, am a single mother, live with my parents, work fulltime and go to school fulltime. I already have to pay \$350 for my daughter's pre-school. The school's rate is \$857.00 a month. This rate increase would require only \$100 shy of one of my entire paychecks, forcing me to take my child out of a school that currently provides the best start academically that she could possibly have (Montessori). She is excelling and doing wonderfully and if this increase occurs, I will be forced to place her in a private care provider's home... taking her away from the learning concepts she deserves. Please do not take this away from my daughter! I have already searched for licensed private home care providers in my area and NONE of them work my working hours from 8am-5:30pm. I will be forced to place my child with my disabled mother, which has proven in the past to cause many days of missed work. My job and child's education is at stake. This increase is just completely unfair to those who have worked hard, and continue to work hard towards someday having the capability of providing a better quality of life and education for their children, such as myself. I feel that this increase will inevitably erase all my hard work and completely set-back my initiatives with my daughter and my own goals, forcing me to start from the beginning... and may even cost me my job. PLEASE DO NOT INCREASE PARENT CO-PAYMENT AMOUNTS!!!!?????!!!! I guarantee that this will only be a temporary fix to the budget and will cause many single mothers, like myself, to add to the unemployment statistics.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Mellissa Spens

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Estrellita Sumang

Phone: (808) 565-7442

E-Mail: hilo_darlin@yahoo.com

Date: December 3, 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Estrellita Sumang, and I am a teacher.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

Increasing family co-payments will have a negative impact on my school. Parents who are affected by this change may not be able to afford the proposed co-payments and may be forced to quit their jobs due to the loss of childcare. This will impact the staff with cut hours and possible lay-offs. The children will also lose by being forced to stay home and not have an educational environment.

I have provided my contact information above and would e happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Estrellita Sumang

From: Stacie Takahshi [stakahashi6@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 5:55 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program

To Whom it may concern
STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

From: Stacie Takahashi
Phone: 808-927-3130
E-Mail: stakahashi6@gmail.com

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798 (Benefit, Employment Support Services Division)

Aloha,
My name is Stacie Takahashi and I am a parent of two toddler boys who attend Waikiki Community Center Early Education Center.

I AM OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTERS 17-798.2-14. THE NEW PROPOSED CO-PAYMENT RATES FOR FAMILIES

With me being a single mom of two young boys (ages 3 and 1 1/2 years) having an early education provider that I can afford is truly a blessing. With the proposed raise in the co-payment, that will drastically hurt my family by me not being able to afford the tuition, not being able to work because of the fact that I don't have anyone to watch my kids (all my family works in the mornings) or even worst going to a cheaper outside provider (one that I don't trust or have that bond with like I do at WCC). Being that my job title is Sous Chef, I'm depended on by my employer to be available mainly day shifts with frequent night shifts too. If I became unavailable in the mornings then I could lose my job, which would mean no income to provide for my kids. There has to be another way in order to make it right and fair for the kids. My boys love going to Waikiki Community Center and they learn essential social and pre-K skills to get them ready for Kindergarten. With the economy the way it is having a job is a blessing, I would like to keep my job that provides for my family and my kids would love to keep attending Waikiki Community Center Early Education Center. Please find another way.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you with more needed information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,
Stacie Takahashi

From: loritengan@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 8:44 PM
To: HUSstestimony
Subject: Committee on Human Services - Dec 4th Hearing

To Rep. Tom Brower:

I was recently made aware of your proposed cuts to help fund children's preschool education. I just want to tell you that this will affect many families who are already struggling in this hard economic time. The children need to stay in school to get the best possible education in their critical developmental years.

Many people have lost their jobs. I personally lost my full time job of 24 years when Maui Pineapple Company shut down the pineapple cannery in 2007. Right now, I have two part-time jobs and so I have to pay for my own medical and dental insurance. I am un-married, rent and other expenses are totally my responsibility, but my main concern is getting the best possible education for my three year old daughter.

She attends preschool with the help of child care assistance from the State. This helps me immensely and she enjoys school and I see her learning new things every day. Without this assistance I would be really struggling and I cannot afford to be a stay at home mom because I need to support my daughter and myself. I would not be able to teach her correctly like how she is being educated at preschool. She would lose out on the social development as well as academically.

Please reconsider the proposed cuts. Too much has already been taken away from Hawaii's education system, and the children will end up being the ones that suffer. Our children's scores are among the lowest already, and I see more kids just "hanging out" and not furthering their education. We need to instill good, quality education in our children, and without financial help, some families will have to be forced to withdraw their child from preschool.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
Sincerely,
Lori Ann Tengan
Wailuku, Maui

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Iris Thompson
Phone: 808-885-8746
E-Mail: kiahanakai@gmail.com

Date: 3 December 2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Iris Thompson, and I am an Early Childhood Education College Lecturer, Kupuna, and member of the Baby Steps council on Hawaii Island.

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

The impact of these changes will resound through our entire community! Not only will children miss out on learning that will support school readiness, but many parents will have to leave their jobs. Those who cannot afford to stop working may be forced to make less than desirable choices for their children's care.

I spend much of my time educating and nurturing new teachers in the field of early childhood education. Almost all of my students are currently working in preschool settings, thus getting the benefit of classroom teaching complemented by on-the-job-training. This makes their learning more meaningful and relevant. These cut-backs are threatening their jobs. As subsidies to parents decrease, parents will be forced to dis-enroll their children leaving centers with no other choice than to lay-off their teachers and/or close.

Please find another way to cut expenses other than depriving our children of quality educational opportunities that we have worked so hard to ensure.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Iris Thompson, M.ED.

From: HUStestimony
Subject: FW: Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program

From: Shana Usam [mailto:kananigurl564@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 8:02 PM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: Hawaii's Child Care Subsidy Program

To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Shana K. Usam. I am currently receiving assistance from the DHS of Hawaii Child Care Subsidy Program for my son Kaulana Usam – Huddy. I have been receiving assistance through this program for my son for the past 3 years. I am very thankful for this program. Without it, my son would not be able to attend a great preschool/daycare, and learn all of the things he has learned there in the past 3 years. It has helped a Single mother like me and many others get a fulltime job and try to make a living to support their families. I am a fulltime hard working individual. Without this program I may lose my job. This will lead me to apply for further assistance with the DHS of Hawaii, (EBT, Med quest, or Financial Aid). It will just cost the state more money, and does not make any sense. Other individuals will do the same thing. Then the state may run out of money and not be able to help any individuals. We may also become homeless and need further assistance. I believe that the DHS of Hawaii has forgotten the purpose of these specific programs, It is suppose to be to help individuals like myself for a small period of time, get a job, save money and find a good living situation. But now days a lot of individuals forget what it is doing to our State. During these hard times Single parents and other individuals whom already are struggling, will suffer even more if the DHS of Hawaii reduce the payments for the Child Care Subsidy Program. I can't afford any preschool/daycare without this program. PLEASE do not reduce the payments for the Child Care Subsidy Program. It will hurt many individuals in the same situation as me. I know the DHS of Hawaii cannot help everyone, but please try. There are individuals who somehow receive this assistance who do not even deserve it. Maybe, the DHS of Hawaii can look into making the application stricter. There are individuals who receive assistance that have come from other countries; I understand these individuals come to America to have a better life. But these individuals should become citizens of the United States of American, or not be able to receive assistance at all, if this is not already a rule. I strongly disagree with the suggestion of reducing the payments of the Child Care Subsidy Program. I am working very hard to be where I currently am, with the help of all the programs that the DHS of Hawaii have. I have received EBT, Med quest, and Financial Aid. I attended school, have a fulltime job. And currently do not need EBT, Med quest, or Financial Aid at this time. Currently I only need assistance from the Child Care Subsidy Program to keep my job and do not have to get any other assistance. Please do not take that away from us.

December 02, 2009

To: Hawaii State Legislature
House of Representatives
Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Wendy Wai
Email: wendelyn_wai@yahoo.com

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services,

My name is Wendy Wai and I am a parent. I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

I am a single mother of two who is not even making ends meet with this tough economy. I also currently work for the State and I am sure you are aware of the budget cuts and increased insurance premiums we are facing. I am doing what I can to survive. I am very appreciative to be receiving financial assistance through Child Care Connection. Without this assistance, I would be forced to be unemployed to take care of my children. This in turn would result in me depending on the State for my living needs (such as getting food stamps, financial, medical insurance-quest, section 8, etc). If this is our only option due to us not having the funds for child care, can you imagine what our State's financial crisis would be in a year or so? If you think it's bad now, amending the financial subsidies will make it worse. I think I speak for many when I say...I humbly ask that you oppose the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wai

From: HUStestimony
Subject: FW: Testimony for the proposed amendments Chapters 17-798.2-14

From: Kathleen Williamson [mailto:mominleilani@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2009 6:33 AM
To: HUStestimony
Subject: Testimony for the proposed amendments Chapters 17-798.2-14

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798, 2-14, the new new co-payment rates for families.

As a preschool teacher in a low income area of the Big Island, I have seen first hand the benefits of quality childcare at the preschool level. Our governor is aware of the importance of the first five years in one's life, a time when every experience has consequences on brain development and social skills are being acquired. If these drastic changes are made to childcare subsidies, the ripple effects will be huge. Parents unable to pay won't be able to go to work, more people will need public assistance, stress in already at-risk families will increase, domestic violence and child abuse/neglect will rise, schools will close and teachers will lose their jobs. There is also another horrible consequence of this ill-conceived cut. There will be those who will offer "affordable" childcare, those without training, without safe environments, without the best welfare of the child as their motivation. Yes, there will be those that will see this as an opportunity to prey on those least able to protect themselves. Let's not let this happen. There has to be some other way. Adequate time has not been given to the families, nor has there been consideration of what may happen should these changes be made.

You may contact me at 965-9994, or the above e-mail address.

Thank you,
Kathy Williamson

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From: HUSTestimony
Subject: FW: regarding the proposed rule changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program

From: hiroewu0001@yahoo.co.jp [mailto:hiroewu0001@yahoo.co.jp]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 10:26 PM
To: HUSTestimony
Subject: regarding the proposed rule changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program

December 3, 2009

To: Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Senator Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services
Rep. John Mizuno, Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Rep. Tom Brower, Vice Chair, House Committee on Human Services
Members of the Senate and House Committees on Human Services

From: Hiroe Wu, Mother of Jasmine Wu
Phone: 808-744-0514/work 926-1947

Re: Information Briefing on Proposed Rule Changes to Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Section 17-798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14

Hearing Date: Friday, December 4, 2009
Time: 11:30 am
Place: Conference Room 329

Dear Charis Chun-Oakland and Mizuon and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in OPPOSITION of the Proposed Rule Changes to the Dept. of Human Services Child Care Subsidy Program, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Sections 17-1798.2-12 and 17.798.2-14. My name is Hiroe Wu and I am a parent of Waikiki Community Center's Early Education Program.

I have 3 children and my youngest daughter goes to Waikiki Community School with support of Human Services. I am currently receiving about \$540 from Human Services because my income is only about \$2800/monthly. This changes of benefit will deeply put my family in hard time because we will not have sufficient income to live for all 4 of us. I am also currently working 6 days a week and will have tremendous financial hardship if my daughter cannot go to school because I couldn't afford the tuition. Please help us and not change the rate of support amount.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you with more information to facilitate your decision making.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Hiroe Wu

[Learn more about HIV/AIDS - Red Ribbon Campaign 2009](#)

From: rosslin4@hawaiiantel.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 9:36 AM
To: HUS testimony

To: Hawaii State Legislature House of Representatives and Senate Committees on Human Service

From: Linda Yamashita
Phone: 808-325-5498
E-Mail: rosslin4@hawaiiantel.net

Date: 12/02/2009

Subject: Testimony for the Proposed Amendments to Chapters 17-798.2-14

Aloha Chair Chun Oakland, Chair Mizuno, and members of the Committees on Human Services. My name is Linda Yamashita, and I am a Provider

I am opposed to the proposed amendments to Chapters 17-798. 2-14. The new proposed co-payment rates for families.

The impact this would have on my families who are on Childcare Connection would be devastating not only for their own families but also for their employment and employers and their childcare providers. Let's talk about the loss of development for each child that is enrolled. Every child enrolled in a structured environment is receiving the tools that develop their cognitive, academic, social, physical and emotional skills that will prepare them to be a success when they enter into the public schools. This is a tremendous help not only to the parents but to the children. Children who will be forced to stay home will become latchkey kids. This is not in the best interest of the children. Brain development from birth is crucial. Teachers, Preschools, and Family Childcare Providers are dedicated to providing the interaction that is necessary to the development of our children. Placing the bulk of tuition on parents that can not afford it will cause them to quit their jobs and ultimately placing them on unemployment and welfare which will be another financial burden for the state. Realistically could you afford to pay 90%. Think about it. Giving 90% of your earned income and living off of the 10%. Could you do it? You're trying to repair one problem but creating another huge problem for the people who live in Hawaii. During this recession can you honestly say that this would be in the best interest of everyone involved? Look at the big picture. The snowball effect this will have on the economy. Your decision is an important one and I pray that you will open your hearts and know that this will devastate an enormous amount of lives? Before you look at the finances consider the children first.

I have provided my contact information above and would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making.

Sincerely,

Linda Yamashita

From: Justine Kealoha [diamond_lady99@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 9:26 PM
To: HUS testimony
Subject: Child Subsidy!

Aloha,

I am a child care provider and I know for a fact that the child subsidy really helped my parents out big time. Without it, they just couldn't afford child care. Now in this world a majority are single parents and I know as a child care provider the subsidy also really helps out single parents. If you take away the child subsidy, you take away a big chunk of their income that supposedly goes for other things like food, clothing, medical, dental and basic necessities. This change will devastate a huge majority of parents. There's enough stress with downsizing of jobs, furlough Fridays, the bad economy, foreclosures, why add child care subsidy to this negative list. You get rid of child care subsidy than you have the ripple effect that will cause worse than a tsunami wave. Hawaii is the gift and spirit of Aloha, let's keep our state this way and our keikis are our future and when our parents have to work, we as child care providers are second BEST. We give undivided attention, a personal touch, support, education, emotional stability, social skills, awarenesses, all with a whole lot of LOVE and TLC. I enjoy being a child care provider in Pearl City and I don't want to lose any of my child care keikis and have room for more.

Just my 2 cents,
Corinne