

## LATE TESTIMONY

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB400

Wednesday, February 9, 2011  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 329

#### COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Fay P. Hanohano, Chair

Representative Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Honorable Chairperson Hanohano, Vice Chair Lee and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Mervina K. M. Cash-Kaeo and I am the President/CEO of ALU LIKE, Inc. ALU LIKE, Inc. is the current Office of Hawaiian Affairs provider for social services to their beneficiaries. As such ALU LIKE, Inc. provides statewide and culturally appropriate, information and referral, case counseling and counseling, individual development accounts, financial literacy and financial assistance.

Our services are provided through six offices located on the islands of O`ahu, Kaua`i, Maui, Moloka`i, Lana`i and Hawai`i Island. From July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 (the first 18 months of the contract), we have served more than 12,258 beneficiaries in the following areas:

Business	600	Education	3,129	Referrals	967
Genealogy	9	General Information	410	Health Needs	367
Housing	3,272	Individual/Family Care	2,534	Legal Service	37

The majority of the beneficiaries served were between the ages of 40 - 59, with children below the age of 10 making up the second highest population served. The age breakdown is as follows:

Under 10	21%	Ages 11 - 19	7%	Ages 20 - 29	16%
Ages 30 -39	19%	Ages 40 -59	27%	Ages 60+	7%
Unknown	3%				

Internal ALU LIKE programs were able to provide the majority of assistance for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs beneficiaries facilitating timely, seamless and effective referrals with many of the beneficiaries being served by more than one program within ALU LIKE, Inc. Having a single and consistent point of contact for social services is crucial, especially in the current economy. Many beneficiaries come to ALU LIKE overwhelmed and in need of calm, compassionate and effective guidance to help them find workable solutions to their crisis. ALU LIKE would not be able to provide our current information and referrals, financial literacy, financial assistance and case management services without the assistance of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Thus, we ask for your support of HB400 to support the Office of Hawaiian Affairs efforts to provide social services to their beneficiaries. Thank you for this opportunity to express our support.

Mervina K. M. Cash-Ka`eo  
President/CEO  
ALU LIKE, Inc.