

LATE Testimony

March 28, 2011

The House of Representatives Joint Committees on Human Services and Housing

The Honorable Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Jo Jordan, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee: Representatives

The Honorable Representative Rida T. R. Cabanilla, Chair
Representative Pono Chong, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee: Representatives

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HCR 265, URGING THE GOVERNOR TO RELEASE OR RESTORE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR PROGRAMS SERVING THE HOMELESS POPULATION ON THE LEEWARD COAST OF OAHU

Hearing: Monday / March 28, 2011
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representatives Mizuno and Cabanilla and committee members,

Over the past 4 years the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) have worked together (through *DHS-10-ETPO-159 Partners in Development Foundation—Family Literacy Thru Tūtū and Me*) to provide comprehensive family training (which includes workforce development, job placement, professional development, cultural training, parent education, early childhood education and school readiness, and TANF education) and transitional services to homeless families on the Leeward Coast of O‘ahu.

The investment on the part of DHS is starting to pay incredible dividends as our efforts have been successful in providing quality early childhood and parent education to over 2000 keiki and caregivers; job training, workforce development, and job placement to over 200 adults; and transitioning over 200 families off the beaches and into shelters.

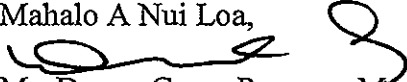
As a result of our partnership with DHS, we have established a relationship of trust amongst the homeless in delivering services, providing education, and assisting in transitioning homeless families off the beaches. We have worked with and have been supported by local community agencies and businesses interested in transitioning homeless families into a life of sustainability, as well as government agencies including Civil Defense who we have assisted to establish safe zones during times of natural disasters.

Our platform of trust begins with delivering food and basic life necessities, and providing a free and safe parent/child participatory education training center, all of which take place where homeless families dwell—at beaches, beach parks, and emergency and transitional shelters on the Leeward Coast of O‘ahu.

It is a critical year for the State and we understand that DHS has had to make difficult decisions to cut programs such as ours that service families in need. But we still need to support homeless families that are beginning their transition to a life of productivity and sustainability. To continue the work that we have started and build on the platform that DHS and PIDF have worked to establish, we are humbly requesting your support for the appropriation of \$600,000 to support PIDF’s efforts in working with homeless families on the Leeward Coast of O‘ahu.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

Mahalo A Nui Loa,



Mr. Danny Goya, Program Manager
Partners in Development Foundation