



LATE

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PROTECTING HAWAII'S OHANA, CHILDREN, UNDER SERVED, ELDERLY AND DISABLED

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TO: Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Committee on Human Services

FROM: Alex Santiago, Executive Director
PHOCUSED

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 1:15PM at Conference Rm 016

RE: Support for HB2685 HD2, Proposing raising the asset limit for public assistance for households with minor dependents from \$5,000 to \$10,000

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Committee on Human Services,

I am Alex Santiago, the Executive Director of PHOCUSED, a coalition of health, housing, human service agencies and individual advocates voicing the needs of the marginalized and underserved in Hawaii. PHOCUSED strongly supports this measure.

As a community, we must support our citizens in their struggle to live productive lives and encourage them to save money to become independent of the system. These services will save our state money in the long term, and only by keeping these programs alive will we be able to continue to have the safety net services we have worked so hard to create over the past few decades. Your leadership in this area is admirable. We look forward to working with you as we go through of the most devastating economic storms we have ever faced.

Please let us know how we can be of service as you move these measures forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.