

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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February 24, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B 2843, H.D.1 RELATING TO THE EMERGENCY AND BUDGET
RESERVE FUND**

Hearing: Friday, February 24, 2012; 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate money from the emergency and budget reserve fund for child abuse and neglect social services.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of this bill. With the fragile state of the State's economy, the DHS supports Administrative bill S.B. 2784 that recapitalizes the emergency and budget reserve fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

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TO: Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair
Committee on Finance

FROM: Alex Santiago, Executive Director of PHOCUSED

HEARING DATE: February 24, 2012, 2:30PM, Room 308

RE: Support for HB2843 HD1, Proposing an appropriation from the emergency and budget reserve fund to DHS for child abuse and neglect social services

Chair Oshiro and members of the Finance Committee,

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.

We appreciate your efforts over the past two years to keep some of our essential Social Services programs alive, using the available funds from this "Rainy Day" account. It is our understanding that there will be an effort this year to replenish these funds. We would like to strongly encourage you to consider using those funds to again shore up essential Social Service programs.

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.